



OLD FORT ELEMENTARY Home of the Stockaders

Mrs. Laura Bryant
Principal
Mrs. Krissy Smith
Assistant Principal

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Dear Old Fort Elementary Parents,

First of all, I would like to thank you for your patience and understanding as we work through the process of learning to deliver instruction in a new way. Ohio was the first state to close schools, followed by many others, as a precautionary measure. State leaders have taken an aggressive, proactive approach for the benefit of all Ohioans, including our own Stockader family. While this can be frustrating on many levels for all of us, our teachers have worked hard to find specific lessons for students to complete while at home that will keep everyone progressing in their grade level content.

We are in a place to start releasing distance learning lessons to students this week. You will find more details listed below about how this process will work.

How will we know what to expect?

Look for an email communication via Final Forms from your child's classroom teacher early this week. This email will contain further instructions about how teachers plan to communicate with you and how lessons can be accessed for each grade level. We will utilize Google Classroom as much as possible for the posting of specific lessons. The teachers' emails will clarify all of the details you need to know for each of your children.

Is the work required?

At this point, we are considering all assignments to be optional. We understand that families face unique challenges, not the least of which may be accessing reliable internet service. Because of this and other considerations, the lessons we are releasing are completely voluntary. If we hear differently from the State of Ohio about required make-up work, we may reconsider this stance. For now, all work is optional. However, it is in your child's best interest to complete the lessons provided to continue their academic growth.

How much work should we expect?

My goal for our school is that we can provide quality instruction to students while not placing an unreasonable burden on you, as parents, for the education of your children. We hope to provide the release of lessons three times this coming week, taking advantage of many of the quality online resources now being offered to districts for free. Some teachers may release lessons over a three day period (such as Monday, Wednesday, Friday), while others may release three days worth of lessons at once so you can work on them at your leisure. Based on the response we receive and how many students are completing the suggested assignments, we may adjust the amount of work released in subsequent weeks.

What else can we do at home to help our child(ren)?

Children do best with structure, so you may want to consider creating a daily schedule for your home. Don't forget to include time for online schoolwork, outside play, board games, chores and other productive activities that help children build responsibility. Most likely, your child will perform best on his/her schoolwork in the morning after a good night of sleep. This is typically our most productive academic time during the school day, so allotting time for online learning in the morning would be wise. Please realize that you do not need to replicate a whole day of learning at home. Students should typically be able to get through their online activities in an hour or two each day.

What do we know about state testing?

At this time, state testing has been "delayed" in Ohio. The Governor has asked the State Board of Education to eliminate testing for this Spring, and a final decision is expected early this week. No information has been released about third graders who still need a qualifying score for promotion to fourth grade. We anticipate guidance from the Ohio Department of Education as more is known about the 2020 Spring testing calendar.

All we can ask of each family is that you do your best with online lessons and resources. We recognize that it's been a long time since many of you were students yourselves, and by no means, do we expect you to be experts on Ohio's K-6 Learning Standards. We are now in uncharted waters for all of us, but on the positive side, we are all in this together.

Again, thank you for your patience as we grow in our capacity to meet students' needs. Please feel free to email your child's teacher or a principal with any questions you may have throughout this time. Thanks for all you're doing for your children at home to keep them moving forward and continue the growth they've made this school year.

With Children at Heart,

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