

CSS CHATTER

REMOTE LEARNING EDITION



APRIL 2020

Remote Learning, though an untried area at CSS before March 17th, is proving to be a positive resource for our students and families during these stressful times. Our students are able to continue to enact with their teachers and classmates for some sense of normalcy in their day. New skills are taught, reinforcement continues, and students show their resiliency as they find new ways to learn and grow. As we all wait to see what the new normal will be in education, our students continue to move forward. Throughout this school building closure, education is still taking place, and there is much to cheer about at Charles Street School!

Let's give a shout out to the following –

Our Preschoolers are continuing to use the world around them to help them learn, engage and explore. Many students have used our class videos to create wonderful learning opportunities at home and have shared their positive experiences. Miss Stacy is so proud of our Preschoolers and misses them so much!

Kindergarten is continuing positive social interactions, from a distance, through Zoom meetings! At home students are continuing to work on reading and math skills with some new websites to practice independently. Math lessons have students comparing height, length, and weight. In reading they are using their sight words, reading words and simple sentences independently, and listening to stories.

First grade has started Unit 5 in Reading. In math they are learning how to use graphs to show data and measure items using non-standard units of measurement. The 1st grade teachers are very proud of how hard the kids are working.

Mrs. Milewski's 3rd and 4th grade math students have seen a growth of over 40% in their REFLEX Math program!

Ms. Hoffecker reports that students have been sending in amazing projects. She enjoys the attention to detail on each art, science and engineering project. Students have created their own works of art, recreated famous artwork, built bridges, created robots, completed scientific experiments, and created their own worlds in the great outdoors.



Ms. Hoffecker is also “dining” along with Ms. Hagmann and various classrooms for “Lunch with Hoffecker and Hagmann. A number of classes, along with other teachers, have joined in for this informal meet up with students.

Fourth grade teachers sent a flat version of themselves (like Flat Stanley) to all their students and are asking students to write about and take pictures of their Flat Teacher doing things with them and their families! They would also like to announce that the annual Wax Museum will still be taking place, though in the virtual setting. Students are researching the famous person they wish to represent. Stay tuned, more information on the annual event will be coming to a screen near you!

Many third graders wrote haiku poems which were submitted in a contest sponsored by Expressive Education. Several were selected to be published in this year’s Young Poetry Digest. We are so proud of all the poems that were written by our talented third graders! Job well done! The third grade teachers enjoy seeing their students through Google Hangout and Zoom meetings. They miss being with their students, but knowing they are well and safe is very important to them. They would like to tell their students to keep working hard and trying their best!

CSS upper classman are loving their how-to projects, learning a wide variety of new skills! Fifth grade teachers report students are learning how to cook, sew, build, and are even teaching themselves new languages. They are taking on this challenge and running with it!

Mr. DeFranco is creating a "virtual" instrumental lesson schedule that will be posted on his Google Classroom. Students will use a code found in this classroom and log on to Google Meets at the appropriate day and time to access their lesson.

Second grade has been reading Mr. Popper’s penguins. Students created an icebox for their penguin to live in. The Easter Bunny visited the homes of Miss Blatchley’s students to deliver Peeps. Each student adopted a Peep, named the peep, took its first picture, read the Peep a story before nap time, built a home for the Peep, filled out child care instructions, and wrote a letter to the Mr. Tracey about their Peeps behavior.

Dear CSS Families,

I wish I could answer all of your questions but the reality is there is still a lot of uncertainty. However, I am certain that we will again be back in Charles Street School and our students and teachers will continue to do amazing things! There is a lot of talk about “The New Normal” and while your guess is as good as mine as to what that looks like, it’s pretty certain that it will look different than it did on March 13. It is almost certain to include masks, social distancing, and other precautions. Enforcing masks on some of our younger students will be a daunting task in itself, but I am certain that the staff and students will rise to any challenge.

As we work towards what comes next, it is important not to forget to think about and service the social emotional needs of our students. Both right now and as we navigate through the re-opening of our physical school buildings. Most days I am fine but I have experienced being scared, apprehensive, worried, confused, angry, hopeless, helpless and fried! And it makes me wonder how my pre-K friends and my 5th grade friends and all my friends in between are doing. For our kindergarten students and some of our first grade students, they have nothing to compare this school year to; all of this upheaval has to be exacting a price.

Please know that we are here for you. Let us know how we can help your child through this difficult time. Our guidance counselor, Mrs. Birch, and our nurse, Ms. Del Rossi, are available to answer your questions and offer their expertise. This crisis has left its mark on all of us and we all need some compassion and understanding. Please communicate with your child’s teacher or myself directly and concerns, challenges, or issues you may be experiencing. While it is important for students to keep their academic skills sharp, please do not do it at the expense of their mental health. Deadlines and assignments can all be altered. The last thing I want is for families to feel overwhelmed by the challenges of remote learning. Now, more than ever, the partnership between school and home is crucial.

A reminder that lunches are served every Monday from 10:00 a.m. until 11:45 a.m. Each student will receive a five day supply of breakfast and lunch. Please go to the back parking lot and utilize the cafeteria doors. Note that masks and social distancing requirements apply. Some teachers are also utilizing this process to distribute and collect work. Dear CSS Families,

Please stay safe and I hope to see you all in the not too distant future!

Regards,

Chris Tracey
Principal