

March 24, 2020

Dear Live Oak Families and Friends,

We appreciate your patience and flexibility during this time and our response to COVID-19. This week the faculty and I have begun discussing, collaborating, training, and planning for Distance Learning with the beginning date of Monday, March 30. Currently the plan is to continue to offer Distance Learning until at least April 8, which is the corresponding date that Sonoma County has issued for the Shelter in Place order. The transition to Distance Learning that will be happening is not unlike starting a brand-new school with new systems and lots of opportunities for learning!

Every teacher is committed to making things work so that your child has the opportunity to continue their learning in the difficult circumstances we are all in. Please be patient with our process, as there will need to be adjustments as we go along. We will have to work together to do the best we can with what we have, and hopefully be blessed with having learned a little more along the way.

School Emails for Students in grades 3-8.

A new concept for a Waldorf inspired public school! Live Oak email accounts were setup for all students in grades 6-8 and by the end of the week, they will also be set up for students in grades 3-5. We are looking to integrate Google Classroom into the Distance Learning process and each teacher will have their own classroom, but they will be using the Google Classroom in different ways. Students will have email accounts only for setting up a Google Classroom so teachers, parents, and students can use the new tools we have to convey information to you and your children for your home learning environment.

The student accounts are not activated yet. This is okay, you haven't missed anything! As the teachers develop their own professional learning, the Google Classrooms will have more activity. In the meantime, your student's teacher will be in communication with you regarding their specific learning program and will reach out with an update on Thursday or Friday this week. It will take some time to figure out everything so that every class establishes a predictable rhythm and structure for distance learning.

We do have limited available Chromebooks that we are able to check out, one per household. If you are interested, please contact Muriel via email to set up an agreeable time to pick it up from the office. Her email is mbertucci@liveoakcharter.org There is a school policy that we will need to bring to everyone's attention related to the loaning of a Chromebook. We will require parents to read and sign the Chromebook loan agreement before leaving the office. Also, Zoom is a great online meeting tool that teachers are encouraged to use, and it helps facilitate face to face meetings of small and large groups rather easily. Teachers may ask class parents to help initiate this process.

Please know that teachers will be doing what they can to convey assignments that don't require extended time in front of a screen. At the same time, we will be making available an array of technology especially Google Classroom and Zoom to facilitate learning and deliver communication between home and school. Email will also be a key communication tool as we make our way through establishing our new Distance Learning program.

Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd Grades

At this point, the lower grade teachers will be focusing on providing opportunities for learning through work completion packets, emails, and Zoom. They will not be doing much with Google Classrooms. At least for now, they will use email to initiate their instructions to you. However, we are giving them the option to have a Google Classroom as an assignment and communication forum between teachers and parents. Again, Zoom is a great online meeting tool that teachers are encouraged to use, as it helps facilitate face to face meetings of small and large groups rather easily. Teachers may ask class parents to help initiate this process.

Picking up Distance Learning materials and/or work packets from Live Oak

During this next week, teachers will be working on gathering and organizing classroom tools and materials for students to collect in order for assignments can be completed. As of now, the plan is to have a window of time to collect materials from the student's classroom. In order to ensure the safety of social distancing, we will have protocols in place so that we adhere to the guidelines of social distancing. Please be patient with this process as there are many considerations to coordinate. We will communicate with you more on this topic later in the week. We are working to have this ready on Monday, March 30. Families with two homes should be considering which parent will do the pickup and plan.

Expectations for Learning

During this time, we are making efforts to offer support, continuance of connections, and offerings for continuity of learning. It is important to support our students during this time and we want to keep student engagement with learning as paramount importance. In this environment, we understand that completing assignments is not required, specifically because of the disconnected and unexpected nature of the situation. Under the direction of the California Department of Education, grades will not be affected during this period of time. For this reason, we won't be grading assignments or penalizing student for late or incomplete work.

However, teachers will be working to provide you at home with what you need to keep learning supported if you are able to. Teachers can collect assignments and give feedback, and help you work with your child to encourage continued learning as much as possible.

Please also remember that meals can be picked up at McDowell Elementary and Petaluma Junior High School on Mondays and Thursdays from 9-11am. The **student must be present**. This is available to all Live Oak students, and any siblings under 18. You do **not** need to be eligible for free and reduced lunch.

Best,

Justin Tomola

Director