

April 10, 2020

Dear Live Oak Families and Friends:

Happy to tell you that we have officially wrapped up our second week of distance learning! What a ride it has been transitioning from our comfortable norms to having a new normal. Although we know that distance learning can never replace at school learning, we are learning a lot about what it can do and generally speaking the response has been very supportive. As we continue to plan and prepare to finish the year with distance learning, I want to name a few opportunities that have arisen during this challenging time.

On the positive side, Live Oak families and friends are able to practice **giving** to those who have suddenly fallen on difficult times. We are able to practice **gratitude** to those amazing essential workers, especially in the health care field. Your patients are so lucky to have you in their corner. We are able to experience **adversity** and practice **optimism** as these times want to grip us, grab us and overwhelm us with doubt and despair. Lastly, in my family, we are able to practice **creativity** and **community** in the kitchen by preparing new meals together!

I also want to give a huge shout out to the teachers and their flexibility during this time. They have been asked to do something super hard and they are stepping up big time. I want to thank Kim, Muriel and Katie in the office who bagged all the materials and continue to be available. I want to appreciate and thank all of the parents as it is super difficult balancing between having your job, having your children at home, and now also being a teacher...whew, exhausting. Thank you to the classroom Aides for continuing to support the teachers and to the Board for hosting our first Zoom meeting. Lastly, I want to give a big shout out to the students. They, maybe more than anyone, have had the biggest shift. Great job students on using **grit** and **determination** during this time.

What would be a letter to the community without a few updates?

1. Fairgrounds gate is open from 7:30am-3:30pm
2. If you need to come to Live Oak, please call the main office before arriving (762-9020).
3. Teachers will continue grading; however, distance learning will not negatively impact a student's final grade.
4. End of the year report cards will come out as planned.
5. We are in the planning stages for a distance learning 8<sup>th</sup> grade promotion.
6. Kindergarten flyaway ceremony will most likely be postponed until Fall 2020.
7. Parents and students are encouraged to maintain communication with their teacher and provide feedback about distance learning.
8. Teachers are available for "office hours" between 9am and 2pm daily.
9. Please let your teacher know if your student is sick or unable to perform any of the learning opportunities presented. We will help make accommodations and provide you with support as needed.

Onwards and upwards! Stay well and healthy.

Justin Tomola  
Director