



WissNation – Family Update #2
A Focus on Teaching & Learning
March 19, 2020

Hello, Wissahickon Parents/Guardians,

How very different life has become as a result of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak! As difficult as this national emergency is, it has served to remind us of the many things we take for granted on a daily basis: meeting up with friends, grabbing a quick bite to eat, enjoying a sporting event, stopping by the public library, and yes, sending our kids off to school each day. My district colleagues and I are very much aware of the challenges this presents for all of you. Our towns, county, state, nation, and global community are all confronting Coronavirus (COVID-19), and through necessity, we are facing new challenges and exploring new solutions. In recent days, for example, virtual meetings have become my new normal in maintaining on-going communications with district and county colleagues. We are all working to figure this out, whatever our challenges may be. This health crisis is challenging each of us to go about things in a completely different manner.

In my first WissNation – Family Update on Sunday, 3/15, I shared with you that our teachers are preparing the students’ At Home Learning Plans. These plans are being collaboratively planned by grade level and department level teams. Each plan will include a range of learning experiences that provide students with both the opportunity to practice and reinforce previously taught material and slowly integrate some new teaching and learning as well. Until these plans are shared with students and families on March 30, I want to remind all of the importance of continuing independent reading and exploring the wide range of digital resources available as learning options (<https://www.wsdweb.org/covid-19/teaching-learning-resources>). This weblink not only includes a rich listing of digital resources, but it also includes other teaching and learning resources as well.

Over the course of this past week, there has been much shared in the news, among colleagues, and by you as to what makes for a successful “at home” learning experience. Of course, these tips will vary by grade level, but they do remind us of some important basics in setting the table for at home learning. I thought I would share them with you (see on the following page).

In the meantime, stay healthy and remain safe.

Regards,



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Some Basic Tips for Successful at Home Learning

Maintaining a Sense of Normalcy

Establish a Workplace	Find a place where each at home learner and at home worker have a comfortable space for doing their work.
Create a Schedule	Start with the usual morning events prior to leaving for school. Prepare a visual schedule and include breaks for physical activity and snacks.
Communicate	Establish the plan for the day by reviewing the activities and the order for completing them during the day.
Set Boundaries	Be clear as to what is acceptable and what is not. Is there time in the day for screen time (games, social media, TV, texting, etc.)?
Take Breaks	Breaks are important, especially for younger children. Build in clearly established breaks for snack, exercise, and lunch.
Take Shifts with Your Partner	If two of you are working from home, share the responsibility of managing everyone's at home learning. An older sibling can often help in this way.
Wrap it up!	At the end of the school day, sit with your children and review the accomplishments of the day. Have each child share something he/she learned today