



August 31st, 2020

Dear Hilltop Families,

The start of the school year is quickly approaching. It makes our hearts sad that we cannot teach your children in person for this first quarter, however we are deep in preparations to design an effective online learning program in remote classrooms. At Hilltop, we are committed to creating a **safe and healthy learning** environment where students and families feel **supported** and **connected**. The goal of this letter is to provide you with a picture of the first few weeks of school. Please mark your calendar with the dates listed below. More information will come from your child's teacher, the school district and future principal letters.

What will a typical school day look like this year?

Students have a daily schedule on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. The school day starts at 9:00 AM and most students will start their day in a class meeting on Zoom, followed by group learning and possibly a live lesson. After this, students will be assigned pre-recorded lessons to watch, staff-lead small groups to join on Zoom or to work off-camera. Lunch and Recess break will be from 11:30AM -1:00PM, with some independent reading during this time. Students will return to a period of whole class learning at 1:00PM, followed by small groups and/or off-camera work time. Sessions of Music, PE and Library will be also scheduled for each class with a combination of Zoom and pre-recorded lessons. On Wednesdays, students can expect some independent learning assignments.

Many of the independent learning tasks assigned may also be completed in the evenings or the weekends if that fits your family's schedule better. We do encourage every student to be available at 9:00AM and 1:00PM (M, T, Th & F) when the teacher is most likely to lead a live learning session. Participation in learning sessions and evidence of independent work are monitored for attendance purposes and to support your child's learning.

What about the first couple of weeks?

We will give students a slow ramp up to the school year. We are prioritizing emotional support and a period of adjustment for students as they return to a very different school environment.

- First day Zoom links will be sent via email and in our new learning management system: Seesaw (K-2) and Canvas (3-6). Parents are encouraged to listen in on this first day, as teachers will be showing students how to find Zoom links through Seesaw and Canvas.
- During the first 10 days of school, there will not be classroom learning sessions at 1:00PM. This time will be set aside for family-school connection meetings. This is a Zoom conference just for your family and your child's teacher to answer your questions and to share information about your child. There will be less assigned work during the first 10 days to help students adjust.
- Teachers have been trained in conducting classroom morning meetings remotely that encourage students to make connections with each other and increase their comfort with virtual learning.
- Families are encouraged to reach out to their child's teacher or the office if a student needs social, emotional, or academic support. We have a student support team that includes our counselors and our student coordinator to ensure each student has a healthy learning experience.

Wed. 9/2 District Kindergarten Info. [Click here @ 6:00 Kindergarten Community Forum](#) **6:00PM**
Thurs. 9/3 District Elementary Info [Click Here @ 6:00 Elementary School Community Forum](#) **6:00PM**
Fri. 9/4 All Grades Hilltop Q & A Sessions with Principal Somoza
Session #1 [Join Zoom Meeting](#) ID: 98655627899 Password: 365335 **10:00-11:00AM**
(US) +1 312-626-6799
Session #2 [Join Zoom Meeting](#) ID: 91780916670 Password: 350493 **4:00-5:00PM**
(US) +1 301-715-8592
Weds. 9/9 Hilltop Kindergarten Orientation/ Q&A Session **6:30-7:30PM**
[Join Zoom Meeting](#) ID: 97876443044 Password: 652760

Some families may be wondering if homeschooling would be a better option than Continuous Learning 2.0. If your child is planning to return to our school district next year, please know there is value in staying on a trajectory of standards that build upon each other. We are happy that our program is intended to closely mirror the typical amount of instruction provided to students each year. This is different from the way schools operated in the spring. I am happy to discuss details with any families.

This will be a different, but GREAT year. Your teachers are planning and getting excited to meet you and create some amazing learning experiences. Now, more than ever, don't hesitate to call the office or email me with questions.

Warmly,

Melissa Somoza, Principal
SomozaM341@edmonds.wednet.edu