

March 24, 2020

Dear Ashford Families,

The COVID-19 pandemic, and all of the precautions being initiated by our state leaders, are having an overwhelming impact on many members of our community. Some of you may need to stay at home or increase day care; and maybe live without adequate income because of your work situations. There is no doubt that this is a real hardship for many. We are doing our best here, and thank you for your patience and understanding as we navigate through this uncharted territory. We hope that you have found some ways to balance your new work and “school-at-home” learning lives with your families. Here is an update on Ashford School plans moving forward and some suggestions on how to achieve a productive balance for your children.

School Closure Status

We are currently closed with no clear indication of when we will reopen. Neither the Governor nor the Connecticut Commissioner of Education have given us a re-opening date. **However, on March 24th, Governor Lamont gave an indication that it is not out of the realm of possibilities that schools may remain closed until the fall. The Governor has said that, at this time, we cannot open prior to April 20th.**

Currently, only a few staff members are allowed in the school building each day for cleaning, food preparation and distribution, and necessary office work.

Student Work

Students can continue to or start work on the supplemental learning activities prepared by our teachers, which can be viewed by clicking on the following link, [Optional Enrichment Learning Opportunities](#). The paper packets from last week are available by clicking on the following link, [Ashford School Resource Website](#). These links, and more information, are located on the Ashford School webpage.

If students need additional work at any time, please have them read. Reading is, without a doubt, the best use of time. If you have a FaceBook account, our PTO has offered to post what people are reading on their page, [Ashford CT School PTO](#). Listening to others read is also a great way to spend some time. Please check out our growing video collection of school staff reading by clicking on the following link, [Ashford School Read Aloud Page](#).

Our faculty members are busy planning more student work, called Continuing Educational Opportunities for the weeks of March 30th – April 3rd and April 6th – April 10th, all of which will be available on our developing webpage starting Monday, March 30th. Please note that you do not need a paper packet if your child has a computer with internet access, however you are certainly welcome to one. The paper packets will be available for pick-up Monday, March 30th through Thursday, April 2nd, and Monday, April 6th through Thursday, April 9th, from 8:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. We will be distributing work for two weeks at a time. Please note that the online work and the paper packets do not necessarily contain the same material. Teachers will be available to answer questions and provide feedback to students via email.

Home Schedule Option

Building and maintaining a schedule for learning at home can be challenging, but having a schedule helps students to focus. This website guides you through the process of creating a schedule for students who are not accustomed to being home all day. The site is designed to assist in creating a healthy balance for families.

<https://mommyhood101.com/daily-schedule-for-kids>

The bottom line is that a predetermined schedule makes doing the work less of a challenge.

Please visit our webpage and check our K12 Alerts for updates! We are all working on behalf of our students, and are available to answer questions by email.

Stay well.

From Your Administrative team: Dr. Longo, Mr. Hopkins, Mrs. Ford and Mrs. Borysevicz