March 25, 2020

Hello Basic Academy Family. I would like to take a moment to give you an update on all the information I have up to this moment and provide some clarity to some questions we have received.

**VIRTUAL OFFICE HOURS**

Basic Academy’s office hours are from 7:00 am until 3:00 pm through email. If your question is regarding teacher content, email the specific teacher as they will provide their email address when they make their initial contact with their students this week. If you have a question that is not content related, you may email [poffls@nv.ccsd.net](mailto:poffls@nv.ccsd.net). We will attempt to answer your email within twenty-four hours.

**STUDENT CONTACT**

Basic Academy teachers are required to reach out to all their students at least once a week. This communication began on Monday, March 23rd and will continue until our return to school. We have scheduled each department a day of the week to send an email with their contact information and any updates they wish to pass along. Encourage your student(s) to check their email daily and at least respond back with a hello as a “check-in”. This may then be documented by the teacher as we look to see how many of our students have access to email.

**SCHEDULE OF TEACHER CONTACT**

The following schedule is when you should receive an email from your teacher for their mandated contact of at least once a week. Again, we ask that students respond to the email so that we may note a response or any questions they may have. Please note that teachers may reach out to students throughout the week besides their day of contact. We will revisit the schedule after this week to see if changes need to occur. If so, we will provide an update.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Day of the Week** | **Subject Area** | **Subject Area** |
| **Monday** | **Mathematics** | **Visual Arts** |
| **Tuesday** | **Language Literature** | **Performing Arts** |
| **Wednesday** | **Science** | **Language Acquisition** |
| **Thursday** | **PE/Health** | **Design** |
| **Friday** | **Special Education**  **Individuals and Society** | **Academic Services/HOWL** |

**DISTRICT GUIDELINES FOR DIGITAL LEARNING ACTIVITIES**

The Superintendent made it clear that all digital student learning activities, during this school closure, be optional for students to complete. To abide by the directives provided by CCSD, grades will not be recorded into Infinite Campus as equality to resources is not guaranteed for all students. This is a universal expectation for distance learning activities across CCSD, and Basic Academy will follow these directives. With that being said, currently we do not know how this will impact the end of the year regarding quarter/semester grades or credit. Once we receive information, I will update our families.

**DIGITAL LEARNING BY BASIC ACADEMY TEACHERS**

Many of our staff members have used google classroom throughout the year, so this platform is being used to reach out to students and provide extended learning activities. This week our teachers have been working to either set up a google classroom or google hangout/zoom sessions. If you do not have access to the internet or desktop/computer, and the only means to email is your cell phone, CCSD has provided paper/pencil learning packets available at each food distribution site. I will tell you that Basic Academy Food Distribution Site has been serving up to 1800 families and the learning resources have been running out. The district does replenish each day. Please note that we understand that many of our families have multiple children in school. As we move forward in this new and unique process, it is our intention to do so with compassion when we make decisions or structures during this closure. As an example, for next week we will move to teachers to provide one quality task for their students. This task is not to monopolize their time during the week or possibly your only technology resource. It may be a short response, video clip, zoom conference check-in, etc. Let me again stress that these tasks are for you to have as a resource and is not mandated. We do encourage participation, as learning can be compared to exercise. if you exercise, you will increase strength, stamina, and muscle growth. If you work on the tasks or resources provided, you will increase knowledge, reading stamina, and problem solving.

**DISTRICT DIGITAL LEARNING RESOURCES**

CCSD.net also has learning opportunities and resources. There is a resource library for Special Needs by calling 702-799-1010 option 7 or email [SpecialNeeds@vegasPBS.org](mailto:SpecialNeeds@vegasPBS.org). In addition, a learning line service was created where CCSD personnel can provide support via telephone at 702-799-6644. This service is available M-F from 8:00am until 4:00pm. Kahn Academy is a well- rounded resource as it provides content for Math, Science, and Social Studies/Humanities, for grades 9-12 and AP. Activelylearn.com provides interactive texts and video assignments for student to engage in. Whether you actively participate in Basic Academy’s resources and google classrooms or the district’s resources, our teachers are available to answer questions or provide assistance during the hours of 8:30 am – 2:01 pm.

**AVAILABLE LEARNING ACTIVITIES FOR STUDENTS WITH NO INTERNET ACCESS**



While all these learning activities and digital office hours require the internet, CCSD has provided print copies of their learning activities at the food distribution sites. Currently, this is the only way, outside of a digital platform, to provide students with learning activities.

Families, if there is anything to take away from this communication at this time, it is to rest assured that my intensions are for our students and families to prevail through this unprecedented situation. I have been a member of our community for 44 years and our community was built on grit, resiliency, perseverance, compassion and most importantly support. Our top priority is to support you with all the resources we have available to us, as we too are quarantined at home. Our situation is not in our control, especially when it’s quickly evolving.

As much as academics and virtual learning is important and attempted, we can only take charge of what we CAN control and that is looking after the Pack. I am extremely proud to be the principal of our great school and community. In times like this, we are tested on our compassion, resiliency, integrity, perseverance, and support. With how our wonderful community has come together with participation, through asking questions, active learning, posting videos, virtual spirit weeks, etc. it shows we live true to the Pack mentality.

“For the strength of the Pack is the wolf, for the strength of the wolf is the Pack!”

With love and compassion,

Gerald Bustamante