

Good afternoon Families!!

Happy Friday. The weather is still beautiful, so I hope that all of our students are enjoying some sunlight and warmth and getting outdoors a bit before more rain. That is the only suggestion that comes to mind, because it is the same suggestion I am giving to myself after working and what I am suggesting to my HS senior and college kid. 😊

Our faculty and staff participated in our first school-wide Zoom call (similar to Skype or Facetime) and it was such a good feeling to see all of the faces and smiles and hear the voices of the adults that make Discovery so special. Many of our teachers have been offering zoom chats with students and this is a great tool that we have to continue to foster the relationships that make DS a family and unique; however, as with all the outreach that the state, the district, and Discovery are offering, it is optional for families. If you are concerned of privacy or any other factor related to a zoom chat, please know that you have the choice to not participate. We are providing choices and optional opportunities for our families and students to remain engaged and connected to us during this time. Again, it is a choice, not an expectation.

Principals *are* expected to zoom each week with Dr. Gilbert, and we have been doing so since the closure began. This has been a great tool for all of us to stay connected and up-to-date with the latest information to share with you and our staff.

Our teachers will PLC using *Zoom* with our coach, Karen Cook, Mrs. Snell, and myself beginning the week of April 6<sup>th</sup>. We will use that time to continue to plan for optional resources and activities for our students. PLC's (Professional Learning Communities) happen every Thursday at Discovery during the teacher's planning time. We will continue that expectation and practice throughout the length of the shutdown in order to continue our efforts of supporting our students and our families.

Beginning the week of April 6<sup>th</sup>, we will post weekly optional activities on our websites for each grade level. Special Area and Band have also created optional activities related to their specialty. Mrs. McKnight will offer some resources, as well. *These will be found on our website on April 6th.* For families that do not have technology access, paper copies will be provided for pickup at the school.

As you know, next week is our official spring break. Announcements will resume on April 6<sup>th</sup>. Teachers will be stepping away as well, as this is their spring break and time for them to enjoy simply being a mom, daughter, wife, friend, sister, etc. and I am encouraging them to do just that. As always, if you have a need, do not hesitate to reach out.

I wish all of our Explorers a happy spring break! I hope that the weather is beautiful and that we all remain healthy and grateful, no matter what.

Kristina Maddux