

Dr. Helen Baldwin Middle School

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Good evening Baldwin families,

As we are more than halfway through our first week of Remote Learning, I wanted to reach out to our families to share some important information in response to parent questions I have been receiving.

First, many parents have asked how to accept the ZOOM invitations that have been sent to your students. Moving forward, our staff will all be sending invitations in three ways. First, invitations will be sent directly to student emails. Second, invitations will be sent via students' Google Calendar. Third, invitations will be posted directly in teachers' Google Classrooms. If you have any concerns with a specific class that your student is having difficulty accessing, please reach out directly to that teacher.

Another concern that I have heard from families is with a high-level of anxiety over the amount of work being assigned. This is a challenging time for all and as a district, Canterbury is working hard to provide the best learning experience possible for our students. That being said, if students can't always make it online for a face-to-face ZOOM meeting, our staff is committed to being flexible and working with you based on your child's needs. The largest purpose for the ZOOM meetings is to provide much-needed face-to-face interactions for our students. If a child cannot make a meeting, have them reach out to their teacher and let them know.

In addition, there is a misconception for some students around the amount of work being provided by teachers. Our expectation as a school is that, while students may only have one face-to-face meeting per subject per week, they will still have daily work to complete on their own for each subject. In an effort to reduce screen-time, some of this work will likely be long-term projects or work that students may write by hand and then upload. This is a work-in-progress and we will continue to adjust in order to best meet the needs of our community.

I have also had a few parents share the learning they are doing with their students on their own. This is awesome, and we encourage students to engage in creative enrichment projects on their own; however, if a student is enrolled in our school, we would expect that they continue to make their best effort to complete the work being assigned, so teachers can assess their progress towards our state curricula.

Finally, I would like to address concerns about how students will be graded. At this time, the state of CT is asking schools to assess student skill development. Please know that we do not want students to feel anxious about this. We will support our students as always, and understand that this is a challenge for many. If your child has specific concerns about grades, encourage them to email me and I would be happy to talk to them about their concerns.

Before I go, I would like to ask a favor of our students. I am hoping to get our daily announcements up and running again and am looking for students to help me to create them. If your students are interested in being part of our daily announcements, please send me an email by this Friday at 5:00 PM. My email is gdukette@canterburypublicschools.org.

Thank you, stay safe, and be well.

Mr. Dukette