

From: Francis W. Parker Charter Essential School
Sent On: 03-20-2020 15:34:15
Subject: Parker Weekly Community Email

Parker Weekly Community Email for Friday, March 20, 2020

"...The people in a school construct its values by the way they address its challenges in ordinary and extraordinary times...Institutions can bear witness, in good and bad times. That is, they can model certain kinds of behavior..."

Ted & Nancy Sizer, The Students Are Watching: schools and the moral contract (Beacon, 1999)

Parker Families:

As we bear witness to these extraordinary times and collaborate to support Home Learning for students, we're starting to discover the unique opportunities and challenges of this shared journey. I'm proud of our teachers for their thoughtful preparation for Home Learning Week 1, impressed by the work students are doing at home, and grateful for the feedback parents have shared as we model "learning by doing" as a school. While so many of you have reached out to let us know how much you appreciate the learning opportunities we have created for students, we also know that Home Learning causes additional stress for some families. We will have more thoughts for those of you experiencing that tension next week.

One family offered this feedback, which makes a real difference to staff who are modeling a "can-do" attitude:

"...I just wanted to say Thank You for all the work the staff have put into formulating a plan for the kids and implementing it so quickly...Your efficiency, offering resources to the kids (laptops, hotspots), putting the kids' education first, and general "let's get it done" approach is outstanding. Thank you so much!"

Students, please know that I especially miss you. I miss greeting you every morning and participating in the rituals and routines of our shared Parker life on campus. And, I need you to practice social distancing so that we can—as a school, as a country, as a species—minimize the impact of COVID-19. Please stay home. I know it's hard. Help your teachers and advisors and peers develop new rituals and routines that keep us connected over distance and over time. I know you can do this!

Here are the main topics in this email:

- Technology Support During Home Learning
- Library Services During Home Learning
- Mental Health and Emotional Well Being
- Assorted Announcements about School "Events" (yearbook, ECO raffle, etc.)

Be safe and well, [Todd](#).

Technology Support During Home Learning

Students can access technical support from Travis and Wesley from home by emailing (helpdesk@theparkerschool.org). School-issued laptops are still available to students, particularly

those who usually use a Chromebook and/or those whose personal devices are requiring a lot of technical support. PLEASE, if you are experiencing challenges with your personal device and/or experiencing stress from sharing a device with siblings or other family members, sign up to get a school-issued device. The next campus access date to pick up a school-issued laptop or “hotspot” is Tuesday March 24th, 2020 from 8:30 to 12:00. Click here to complete a [Laptop Request Form](#) and here for the [Hotspot Request Form](#)

Access Office applications on personal devices:

Teams – [Android](#) | [iOS](#)

OneNote – [Android](#) | [iOS](#)

OneDrive – [Android](#) | [iOS](#)

Office (Word PowerPoint Excel) – [Android](#) | [iOS](#)

Windows/Mac: Download from <http://portal.office.com>– login using your Parker credentials and use the “install office” link in the top right corner

Parker’s Digital Library

The Parker Library is committed to bringing unique learning opportunities to our students which is why we offer a free reading service providing digital books through Sora, the student reading app. And with school closed, the digital library is *always* open, 24/7. Click [here](#) for more information about Sora and how to access it.

A message from School Counselor, Sheila Kelly, to Parker students:

During this unprecedented time, I wanted to reach out to say that we can still connect! Along with email communication, I want to let you know that if you'd like to set up a meeting with me via video conference or phone call, that's easily done. Email me at skelly@theparkerschool.org to set up the best way for us to communicate. Please know, if you're feeling more anxious or lonely due to all that's happening in the world right now, you're not alone. Make sure you take time to care for yourself, get outside for a walk, engage in something creative -- and if you need to take a break from social media or the news, please do. The amount of information can be overwhelming. Click [here](#) for more ideas about how to take care of your mental and emotional health during this time of social distancing.

Order your Parker yearbook now! Deadline: Friday April 3rd

Please complete the [form linked here](#) to order your yearbook today. Payment can be made by mailing a check made out to “Parker School” and mailing it to the school or by paying online through [Unipay](#). Contact Ashley Wood at awood@theparkerschool.org with questions.

Great News about ECO'S Raffle Basket Fundraiser!!!

You can pick out which raffles you'd like to try to win from the comfort of your own laptop, phone, or computer!! [Click here for THE ONLINE ECO RAFFLE!!](#) The raffle will be open until March 27th! Questions? Contact Katrina at ktdstone@theparkerschool.org

Spring Sports Update

The MIAA has released an adjusted schedule for spring sports: at this time, they are planning for a season that will run from April 27 through June 20. Our coaches will be in touch electronically with our student-athletes regarding individual preseason conditioning plans. We will continue to reinforce the policy of no formal gatherings or team activities while campus is closed.

Questions?

If you have a question about:	Please contact:
a specific class or assignment	the teacher of that class (see Parker email list here)
our approach to Home Learning (or ideas to share!)	email homelearning@theparkerschool.org
technical support	email helpdesk@theparkerschool.org
If you need to share information or access services about:	Please contact:
your family's health information	email lzick@theparkerschool.org
mental health/emotional support needs	email skelly@theparkerschool.org
food insecurity/free and reduced school lunch needs	email mmckenna@theparkerschool.org