



Monday, March 16

Dear Lower School Families,

Welcome back from Spring Break! When Dr. Jacobsen launched this year's theme of "Better Together" and told stories of the "Messy Middle" in August, I never anticipated how much our school, country, and the world would need these messages.

Our goal over the next couple of weeks is to maintain clear communication and collaboration with our Lower School community. The teachers are working hard to design rigorous, relevant, and balanced learning experiences while recognizing the fact that every home situation is unique. We are committed to being creative and flexible. We want our students to be healthy, happy and challenged, so please know how much we value your feedback along the way.

As much as we know children thrive on routine, there will be some modifications to their daily schedule while at home. We will make every effort to strike a healthy balance between preserving the parts of our school experience that are unique to MV and incorporating a home learning plan that bears in mind our new expanded partnership. As usual, you can expect a weekly [PowerSchool Learning](#) post that outlines the overview of the learning for the week. Additionally, by 7:30 a.m. during our home learning days, we will add virtual morning announcements include virtual class meetings, provide detailed daily assignments with directions and resources, and ask for your child to reflect on his or her learning, just like school. We will post videos, images, and links to be used along with the backpack baggies that went home before Spring Break.

Since our Connections classes meet weekly, Connections Teachers will post an experience each week, and PE Coaches will post daily, just like at school. The goal of these offerings is to inspire and engage our minds and bodies while enriching learning across disciplines. We also encourage you to try family-style meals and enjoy some recess!

Our goal for this home learning period is to stay connected as a community. We want to provide your child with opportunities to continue to grow in their foundational skills of literacy, math, and science while exercising their Mount Vernon Mindsets of solution seekers, creative thinkers, and ethical decision-makers. We are striving to have a balance of independent work and parent-assisted tasks. We will need your help with taking pictures and uploading them to share with the teacher and class. We are also balancing activities that utilize screen-time, pencil/paper tasks, outdoor exploration, and play.

In order to help this to be a positive experience for your child and your family, please let us know what you need and how we might better support you. Your feedback will make us better, so please don't hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher, learning coach, or a member of the admin team. We are all in this together.

Warm regards,

Shelley Searcy  
Head of Lower School