



Monday, March 23

Dear Middle School Families,

We made it through Week One! We are so proud of the excitement and diligence we are seeing from our students as they engage with their teachers and lessons. Thank you, parents, for all you are doing to support your children amidst a new normal of home living. Moreover, I continue to be amazed by the intentionality of our teachers as they practice teaching in a totally different way; they are learning along with your children and altering plans to be responsive.

INFORMATION THAT SHOULD HELP IN WEEK 2:

1. **We are working to enhance the experience that students have seeing and hearing from their classmates and teachers.** What has been most evident from our students (and from those of you who have offered feedback- thank you!) is a continued need and desire to connect face-to-face. As we continue to move forward, Middle School teachers are working to increase meaningful, productive, and interactive learning experiences through guided instructional moments, either through recorded video or live lessons. Encourage your children to jump in on any live classroom chats as well as teacher office hours in Zoom. Connection is vital to strengthen relationships.
2. **Understanding the MS PowerSchool Learning (PSL) Pages and Assignments.** Pay close attention to the Home Learning tabs on the left of each Middle School teacher PSL site as they offer very specific details and links (if not offered in the Week at a Glance). The flow of the week will continue to be a daily Humanities and Learning Strategies lesson with math, science, and World Language assigning 2-3 lessons per week on the days your child has that class. Arts and Design and PE (linked in on the Mind and Body PSL page) will continue to offer a weekly plan or challenge. Teachers continue to use the color-coded posting key for students: **Black = Classwork; Green = Homework; Blue = Clickable link;** and **Highlight = Upcoming assessments.**
3. **Workload.** The daily feedback that students have offered thus far shows that the majority feels the workload has been at a 3 on a scale from 1 (barely any) to 5 (way too much). If the volume of work is proving overwhelming for your child, focus first on Humanities, math, science, and Grades 7 & 8 World Language.
4. **Student Daily Check-In.** Thank you for continuing to remind your child to complete the [MS Home Learning Student Check-In Form](#) daily. Gianne Demeritte will send the form via email daily at 2:00 p.m. This not only serves as an attendance check, but it provides essential student feedback on their experience.
5. **Parent Feedback.** In addition, we would love to hear from you about your experience thus far. Please take a few moments to complete this [MS Home Learning Parent Check-in](#) prior to Wednesday, March 25 at 11:00 am. Your feedback is a gift to us! If you have any questions or if your family is experiencing illness, please reach out to me.

Sincerely yours from an appropriate physical distance,

Angél Kytile
Head of Middle School