March 22, 2020

Mr. Olechna’s Twitter link is https://twitter.com/CLSPrincipal

Ms. Albertson’s Twitter link is https://twitter.com/AlbertsonStacey

Please follow us in order to receive important information in the quickest manner possible. In addition, reminders and updates about upcoming events are sent via Twitter as well.

Dear CLS Parents and Guardians:

I hope that this email finds everyone well. When school resumes tomorrow, it will be a school that is unlike any other we have ever before experienced.

I have read excited children’s responses to their teachers in Google Classrooms over the past few days while teachers have been working in earnest to get their “classrooms” set to continue tomorrow morning in the best manner possible at this time.

It truly touches my heart to see how everyone has missed one another. It goes without saying that the teachers and staff are like a second family to your children, so having even distance learning that allows for more contact with the CLS staff for your children and your family at this trying time for our town, state, country, and world, is critical. I believe in my staff. They are well prepared and dedicated to your children and you. We will get through and we will get through successfully.

As I referenced on Friday, please make sure your PowerSchool email is the one with which you can still receive messages (some parents have it set as their work email and therefore were not getting school/district e-Blasts). In addition, please continue to visit the Seymour District Facebook page on a regular basis to get critical updates, too.

Please Discuss the Following with Your Children About Digital Learning
Proper and respectful language and appropriate choices must be made by children when working and submitting assignments, comments, and questions. Just as students in the actual CLS building would need to be on topic and not be having a separate conversation with a classmate while the class is working or the teacher is talking, likewise students must refrain from making unnecessary and inappropriate comments. School rules still apply in regards to the expectation of proper digital citizenship and making appropriate choices.

In order to make sure everyone can do their best learning, we have to make sure we do not fill the classroom stream with a bunch of unnecessary comments. Please remind your child that all students should be mindful of what they are posting.

CLS Distance Learning
Our distance learning will begin on this coming Monday, March 23. This is not optional for students – this is how school is going to be conducted. Teachers will be taking attendance based on knowing your child has responded/completed assignments and/or signed into Google Classroom. The combined workload for students should be up to 1½ hours for pre-school and pre-kindergarten students, and up to 4 hours for students in grades kindergarten through fifth
grade. This includes work on all core subjects and UA time as well. Parents are also encouraged to read aloud daily to their child. Children should maintain a log of their reading.

If a child is able to complete all assignments in less than the above specified amount of time, your child should do additional independent reading. We cannot stress enough the importance of reading 20 minutes or more per day in the lower grades and up to an hour or more per day in the upper grades.

**PS/PK/K/1st Grade Distance Learning**

While grades 2, 3, 4, and 5 are using Google Classroom, pre-school, pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, and first grade students can access materials via 2 ways.

1. Go to the Seymour Public Schools website and click on “Parents/Community.” On the page you will see a link for "K-1 Distance Learning.” If you click that, you will see your child’s teacher’s name. Clicking on their name will take you to their class folder and the corresponding work for distance learning. A shortcut is by clicking on the link that follows: [https://www.seymourschools.org/parent-portal](https://www.seymourschools.org/parent-portal)

2. If you have obtained a chrome book for your child, you may use that to access the materials as well. Use the "Sign in as guest" option (since PS, PK, K, and 1st grade students do not have google accounts, they cannot sign into the chrome book using an email address - parent Gmail addresses cannot be used to sign in – only student ones) at the lower left hand corner of the screen. Once signed in, you may then go to the Seymour Public Schools site and follow the same steps above.

**Lunch Pick-Up on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursday @ SMS 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

Seymour Schools will continue to provide lunch 3 days a week for pick up at Seymour Middle School. Pick up times are between 11:00 and 1:00. On Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

**Code for CLS School Counselor Google Classroom**
Mrs. DeNigris and Mrs. Salvati (back from leave on Monday!) have a Google Classroom in order to share resources, websites, and an open line of communication during our time apart. The link to the classroom is: [https://classroom.google.com/c/NjUwMTEwNzczMDZa](https://classroom.google.com/c/NjUwMTEwNzczMDZa)

In order to access the classroom, you will need the following code: **gp75ljc**

Mrs. DeNigris is also available via the Remind app. Please consider joining her class by clicking this link: [www.remind.com/join/mrsjdeni](http://www.remind.com/join/mrsjdeni)

You may also email either of our school counselors with any specific concerns or questions.
Mrs. DeNigris – jdenigris@seymourschools.org
Mrs. Salvati – ksalvati@seymourschools.org

**Unified Arts Google Classroom Codes**

**Computer Google Classroom Codes from Mrs. Sherman**
Students in grades 2 – 5 have been working in Google Classroom with Ms. Sherman throughout the year. She is not providing the codes again because once students have access, they are all
set. If for some reason your child lost access, please contact Mrs. Sherman at bsherman@seymourschools.org

Art Google Codes from Mrs. Chapin
Grade 2: 3mqxuru
Grade 3: fhsv5v5
Grade 4: 24xqbx6
Grade 5: dju73uv

Art Google Classroom Codes from Mr. Taylor
2nd grade: hx6dgtd
3rd grade: 4hwxe5e
4th grade: 3jav6ab
5th grade: 73ka3q4

Music Google Classroom Codes from Mr. Zeiser
Grade 2: p7zku7u
Grade 3: e3zvii2
Grade 4: 6igshqy
Grade 5: xffuew7
Band: uvkbemz
Chorus: rsqvls3

Library Google Classroom Codes from Mrs. Kirkland
Grade 5
Fleming               m7ouhex
Pinkussohn            pbtcfgr
Kimball               v2bitpu
Cunningham            ioli7bo

Grade 4
Drost                  7xxnthq
Ciocca                vu2tsam
Mullaney              osvmhvt

Grade 3
Scribano              y76jo3v
DeAngelis             xh7hutd
Daly                  xyscdzk
Dorosh                gw46kwh

Grade 2
Mariano               gzhdsla
Pernaselci            d4ymlsc
Overcash              lysnvag
McCasland             by2krb7
Verrelli              trr2j7f
CLS Morning Announcements via Twitter
We will be posting morning announcements Monday through Friday at https://twitter.com/CLSPrincipal

This includes doing student birthdays, but please note that we will only be doing students’ first names. Keep in mind the videos uploaded are only 30 seconds maximum length, so they will always be very brief.

To view the morning announcements, go to Mr. Olechna's Twitter link at https://twitter.com/CLSPrincipal

Lexia
Students in all grades K – 5 will be receiving a Lexia account. This is to be part of the daily reading for your child. Your child’s teacher will be sending out usernames and passwords for your children early next week.

Lexia® Core5® Reading supports educators in providing differentiated literacy instruction for students of all abilities in grades pre-K–5. Lexia’s research-proven program provides explicit, systematic, personalized learning in the six areas of reading instruction, targeting skill gaps as they emerge, and providing teachers with the data and student-specific resources they need for individual or small-group instruction.

Three key features of Lexia are that it

- Engages and motivates students in a game-like environment
- Provides progress-monitoring student data without a test
- Is accessible via iPad, Chromebook, or browser, so students provided with access to Lexia can do so from home in addition to spending time with it at school

With Lexia students work independently to develop critical reading and language skills through individualized, motivating learning paths. All students, regardless of their skill level, can each work at their own pace and the teacher is notified (on web-based reports and via email) only when a child requires support.

There are no tests with Lexia – teachers receive report updates from Lexia that help focus the teacher’s time on your child’s greatest need by prescribing the instructional intensity necessary to help students reach end-of-year benchmarks, as well as by predicting performance before a learner fails. Lexia creates an action plan automatically for your child based on skill areas in which a student is currently working, deciding on the specific skills with which the student needs instruction, program usage based on the student’s recommended minutes in the program, and the student’s completed levels.

CLS is able to monitor that students will be reading Lexia 20 minutes per day. You may read more about the program by visiting https://www.lexialearning.com/products/core5
Second Marking Period Report Cards – Grades Will Be Visible to Parents on Wednesday

The Grading Portal will be re-opened this Wednesday, March 25, for parents to be able to go in and view their children’s report card grades and teacher comments. At this time we are unable to mail the report cards home, so online viewing is the only means available.

Parents, please take the time to show your child his/her report card and have a conversation with them on what they realize they are doing well and in what areas they need to target for improvement, if any.

CLS Staff Availability

CLS teachers and staff will be available via email and through their Google Classrooms between 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. daily. Those will be CLS administration’s hours as well.

This doesn’t mean your child is limited to doing their school work only during that time frame – we realize parents who may still be working will need to assist their children at times outside of that window. If you email staff or administration outside of that window, it may be not until the next day that you receive a response.

Parents, please do not post anything from a teacher’s google classroom on any social media outlet. That is the teacher’s classroom, just as if it was in the physical CLS building. Thank you in advance for your understanding on this.

If you have questions or if your child is not hearing from their teacher regarding assignments and feedback on work completed, please feel free to reach out to CLS administration.

Read Aloud Videos

In addition to classroom teachers, additional staff and administration are seeking to do read alouds for the students.

A video of Mr. Olechna reading the book, *Cyrus, the Unsinkable Sea Serpent*, by Bill Peet, with permission granted by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, may be accessed by going to the following link: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1iMHO_KwhO4BkT-zLKrVwqwcHAVdeT0q/view?ts=5e7804e5](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1iMHO_KwhO4BkT-zLKrVwqwcHAVdeT0q/view?ts=5e7804e5)

I hope your children (and entire family) enjoy the tale!

Please understand all of us are finding our way a bit, so what we do this week may differ in some ways how things are done in subsequent days. For instance, we may share future read alouds in a different manner.

Seymour Teacher of the Year

Looking for something else to do with your child? As it is time for nominations for Seymour’s Teacher of the Year, you could work together on a nomination on your child’s teacher. All information is posted on the district website, along with past winners and the nomination form. You can go right there by clicking [https://www.seymourschools.org/board-of-education/teacher-of-the-year](https://www.seymourschools.org/board-of-education/teacher-of-the-year).
Thank you. This is a very important event for any teacher. Please take the time to consider recognizing a teacher for his/her contributions to the students of Seymour. Nominations are being accepted now through April 3, 2020.

CLS Yearbook Ordering Deadline REMAINS Monday, April 6, 2020
Yearbook Sales Continue On! $12 for a school yearbook – you’ll never see a better deal than this! Color photographs, candid student pictures from the recent Masquerade Ball and CLS Super Bowl will be in it!

All yearbook sales will be online only. You may order your copy(ies) of the yearbook by clicking HERE.

Parents can also go to YBPay.lifetouch.com and use Yearbook Code: 3643320
Don’t delay and act today – the deadline for yearbook sales remains April 6, 2020. No extra yearbooks will be ordered, so don’t miss out when you can secure your copy today!

Stay Well
Once again, please take care to keep you and your family safe.

We hope to see you and your children back at CLS soon!

As always, please feel free to email me at dolechna@seymourschools.org

- Dave Olechna