



John Eliot School

Bulletin

May 8, 2020

135 Wellesley Avenue, Needham, MA 02494
Phone #781-455-0452 & FAX #781-455-0852

Principal, Karen Bourn
Assistant Principal, Mona Maas
<http://eliot.needham.k12.ma.us>

Principal's News

Dear Eliot Families,

Last weekend, Dr. Gutekanst sent a message to families regarding the next phase in remote learning for NPS. These changes were based on the [MA Department of Elementary & Secondary Education Guidance](#), parent feedback, and a review of remote learning plans in neighboring districts. This has resulted in the [Needham Public Schools Remote Learning Goals](#) which outline the critical content that will be taught in each grade level. In addition, the opportunity for students to receive increased synchronous (live) sessions with their teachers was incorporated to ensure that students were connected with the school community. Starting **Monday, May 11th**, there will be a few adjustments to remote learning:

1. All students, will have daily contact with their teachers through "live" video sessions

This will include at least **one weekly morning meeting**, **two small group sessions**, and **two other "live" opportunities** determined by the teacher and based on student needs. The intent of these sessions is two-fold: maintain social connections and provide more individualized instruction and feedback in real time.

- For some families, this increase in live sessions is a welcome change; for others, this may seem overwhelming. Teachers will work with families to determine which activities are the priority for your child and/or which opportunities might provide more challenge for students. Home and work situations and student independence vary greatly from family to family. Please know that we will support your child however we can, no matter what the circumstance.

2. Classroom teachers will send out a weekly schedule each Sunday evening by 6:00 p.m. so families and students have an opportunity to preview the week and balance work, family, and learning with home responsibilities.

- Your child's teacher will email the week's schedule to you by Sunday. This schedule will be a dynamic document that includes every hyperlink your child needs to access both live and asynchronous learning (link to SeeSaw or Google Classroom). In addition, the schedule will offer times for students to participate in these activities to help support those families looking for more structure. In the majority of

cases, core academics will be scheduled in the morning and enrichment opportunities will be available in the afternoon.

- For some families, students might engage only in certain live sessions and/or asynchronous activities; other families might follow the schedule as outlined from the start of the day until the end of the day. Please follow the schedule as appropriate for your child and family's needs.
- The schedule will have the same format in all classes. Green blocks will be live sessions, while blue blocks will show independent work sessions. Please see a sample below:

GREEN = Live sessions with a teacher

BLUE = Student-directed learning (See-Saw or Google Classroom Assignments completed independently)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday		
Focus Lesson	Writing	Foundations	Math	Reading	Science/Social Studies		
9:30am	Morning Meeting	Small Group 1	Morning Meeting	Small Group 1	Morning Meeting		
10:00am	Focus Lesson Practice/Review Activities on Seesaw	Small Group 2	Focus Lesson Practice/Review Activities on Seesaw	Small Group 2	Focus Lesson Practice/Review Activities on Seesaw		
10:30am		Small Group 3		Small Group 3			
11:00am		Focus Lesson Practice/Review Activities on Seesaw		Focus Lesson Practice/Review Activities on Seesaw			
11:30am							
12:00pm	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch		
12:30pm	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess		
1:00pm			Live Special				
Specials	Spanish	PE	Media	Art	Music		

3. Specialists will offer Live drop-in sessions to all classes.

- Students will have the opportunity to attend a "live" special with their class each week. Spanish, Art, Music, PE, and Media will be included in the weekly schedule. Live sessions might include an opportunity for students to share their work with the teacher and one another, a preview or review of their lessons or a game to play. In addition, asynchronous lessons will still be made available for those looking for more project based, static activities.

With the additional live sessions for students, we hope that children will remain engaged and excited about learning. The opportunity to share work with peers, ask questions live to the teacher, and engage in activities together can be motivating and meaningful. Teachers are looking forward to this next phase of remote learning as it will in some cases increase the amount of live time they have with students.

ACCESS TO ELIOT SCHOOL

Several families have asked when they can access the building to retrieve their child's personal belongings. Principals are working with the department of public health, and facilities management to create a safe process to implement in June.

THANK YOU TO OUR PTC

Thank you for the wonderful video from our students in honor of teacher appreciation week. We really miss all of those little faces!

Other News

NEWS FROM THE NEEDHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Needham Free Public Library is still running a Summer Reading Program. The fairy tale/fantasy theme this year is called Imagine Your Story.

Families can register and log reading online now at Needhamma.beanstack.com or at the Library website's Children's page: www.needhamma.gov/library/childrens. Children ages 4 to 12 become the hero in a story that unfolds as they log online the time they spend reading, being read to, or listening to audio books. The children ages 4-12 undertake an online quest through the Enchanted Forest where they encounter dragons, unicorns, and other magical beings. They can earn digital badges along the way. If they read for 16 hours over the summer and acquire 8 digital badges by August 4th, they will reach the royal castle in the kingdom of Readsalo. Children who read for 17 hours or more earn a special digital badge and will be knighted by the King and Queen of Readsalo.

Parents can also register for an Early Literacy Summer Reading Program for children 0-3. Adults read aloud to the child and log the time spent reading. Adults read to the child for 10 hours over the summer by August 4th to complete the program. They earn digital badges and uncover early literacy tips along the way - things adults can do at home to engage their child in reading.

There are eBooks and Audiobooks available for check out on the Libby app and through the online library catalog. There are also many free eBooks available through links on the library web page.

The library will be presenting virtual programs and performances throughout the summer. We will begin with a show from Sciencetellers on June 28th. Sciencetellers combine storytelling with science experiments. The show is about dragons at 4:00 PM on June 29th. We will also have virtual storytelling performances from Diane Edgecomb and Papa Joe. More types of virtual programs are also being planned.

Children can try to find their way through different virtual fantasy themed escape rooms over the summer on the library Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/NeedhamFreePublicLibrary/>

The library offers a number of craft projects, STEM activities and other ideas to keep children and families occupied on a link at our webpage under Children's Activities at Home <http://www.needhamma.gov/4854/Childrens-Activities-at-Home-free-resour>

NHS TUTORING AVAILABLE

The National Honor Society at the high school is offering tutoring/remote learning help to families with students K-8 grade. If you have a student/s at home that you think would benefit from one hour of tutoring per week during the time we are away from school please use this [link to Remote Learning Tutoring Form](#) to sign-up in our program.

After enrolling, one of our NHS members will reach out to you to set up a weekly time. Obviously, these meetings will occur using Facetime, Zoom, Skype, GoogleMeet, etc. Since we have a limited amount of tutors available these sessions will be on a first come first serve basis.

If you have any questions please contact the Honor Society advisers, Doug Stanczak doug_stanczak@needham.k12.ma.us, Kate Bergeron katherine_bergeron@needham.k12.ma.us
