Welcome to our Virtual Campus Program

First Day of School: Wednesday, August 19, 2020

Gateway will begin the 2020-2021 school year with our (renamed) Virtual Campus Program and will remain in this mode until at least September 30.

Fortunately, our planning this summer considered a number of scenarios, including this possibility. Now that we know the new school year will begin with students learning at home, we are moving full-speed ahead to implement the excellence of the Gateway program in our Virtual Campus Program.

We will continue planning to provide on campus instruction as soon as we are allowed to do so by state and local health agencies. This includes ongoing consultation from our Advisory Council of Gateway parents who are medical professionals, as well as Joffe Emergency Services, our health and safety consultants.

For more information, please refer to 2020-2021 School Year Plan published in May 2020.
Virtual Campus Program

**Student Experience**

**Predictable schedules:**
- Grade-level schedules matched to developmental readiness
- Clear routines for students and families to maintain Monday-Friday
- A smooth transition to on-campus instruction.

**Daily synchronous (live) instruction and class activities with teachers and classmates. At the beginning of the year, teachers will:**
- Prioritize community and relationship building
- Explicitly teach technology skills
- Provide direct instruction in academic areas.

**Daily asynchronous (independent) learning activities. At the beginning of the year, teachers will:**
- Provide age-appropriate learning activities by grade or discipline
- Give children the chance to refresh academic skills and knowledge
- Support children and families in learning how to manage the online learning experience as a family unit.

**Weekly opportunities for small group and 1:1 instruction. At the beginning of the year, teachers will:**
- Get to know kids and build teacher/student rapport
- Support the social connection of new students
- Gather assessment data in language arts and math.

**A robust specialist program, which will offer Discovery Center, Life Lab, Music, Physical Education, Spanish, clubs, and electives.**

**Ongoing learning support and enrichment:**
- Student Teacher Success Team (STST) via Resource Support Coordinator
- K-3 reading intervention program via Learning Specialist
- Classroom-based academic challenges.

**Community Building**

**Physically distanced driveway visits by teachers on August 17 and 18:**
- Relationship building for teachers, students and families
- We’ll also be dropping off hands-on learning materials.

**Increased attention on social/emotional learning (SEL):**
- RULER approach to emotional intelligence
- Mindfulness integrated throughout the program
- Anti-bias awareness and discussions
- Scheduled 1:1 on-campus student and family check-ins with teachers, in the first three weeks of school.
Virtual community offerings:
- Parent Education to support caregivers in supporting children
- Head of School chats
- First Friday and community assemblies
- Classroom/grade meetups.

Regular communications:
- Mondays: Hannah Wikse, Assistant Head of School
- Wednesdays: school news and announcements via the Gateway Family News
- Fridays: Dr. Zachary Roberts, Head of School
- Classroom information from teachers and room parents.

Technology

School-provided hardware:
- A Chromebook or iPad for every K-3 student
- A school-provided laptop for every 4-8 student.

Guidance to students and families:
- Direct instruction on skills for effectively using technology for learning
- Age-appropriate best practices for communications and technology
- Leveraging teachers’ professional development on integrating technology into curriculum and instruction
- Using video conferencing effectively
- Support for independent learning and skill practice
- Providing students with many ways to demonstrate their learning
- Regular, constructive feedback on student work.

A comprehensive set of online tools to support classroom work, family communications, virtual meetings, and assessments:
- Zoom for all meetings and conferencing
- Google Classroom for our Learning Management System
- G-mail for email
- A robust list of learning tools for teachers and students including QuickTime, iMovie, YouTube, GarageBand, Ed Puzzle, Flipgrid, Educreations, and more.

Learning

Daily Schedule:
K-2: 8:45am-1:45pm
3-5: 8:45am- 2:30pm
6-8: 9:00am- 3:00pm

What to expect during the day:
Students will spend their time in live sessions that include whole group instruction/team building, 1:1 meetings with teachers, small group work, and individual work lasting anywhere for 15-75 minutes. They will meet with specialists every day. Kindergarten will have a minimum of 180 minutes of daily learning. 1st-8th Grade will have a minimum of 240 minutes of daily learning. Students will also have asynchronous work periods to engage in independent learning during the day. Your child(ren)’s individual schedule will become available the week before school.