

Back-to-school, Number 1...pre-game – August 10, 2020

Fair and summer-weary parents:

*Information of back to school is below. I am fortunate to be a coach of over 35 years. This summer seems an endless preparation, with many changes in game planning, and yet - the game to be played - which will necessitate changes as the game progresses. For that, I apologize, for the unusual contingencies as you prep your learners for this wonderful start to another year of possibilities. In general, I prefer to write each Friday with brief messages of events, celebrations and news. However, I am certain I will have need to communicate more frequently as we close on August 31st. Do not hesitate to contact me with individual needs and clarification. So here goes, with what is known so far:

*Thanks to those who have completed the survey request for face-to-face or remote. We will offer both platforms and remote will be a full class. We will also have opportunity at the quarter for review of platform selection and if there is an unintended or envisioned challenge in this initial platform selection, a move will be considered. We would wish for students to remain in the chosen platform as moving back and forth may be difficult for the learner.

Some highlights of both programs as an outline:

*Face-to-Face - students will have assigned seating and be placed in Pods(4) and Pairs(2). They will do most activities during the day within their pods and pairs. This will allow us to contain and contact trace should there be a positive case. Students will have recess contained to two Pods and contained to zones on the playground that will be rotated. Pods and Pairs will be as distanced in the classroom and all school environments as possible. Teachers and other staff will maintain social distance at all time and have no physical contact. Frequent hand-sanitizing and hand-washing will take place throughout the day. Masks will be worn as much as possible, and required when social distancing is not possible. Students refusing to wear a mask will be encouraged. If a mask is not worn and is not supported at home, students will remote learn. Teachers will offer and create times for "mask-breaks" during the day. Lunch will be confined to a smaller number of students and students will lunch with their pairs and pods. Sanitation of all materials will take place as frequently as possible and additional maintenance staff have been hired to clean as often and deeply as possible.

We will wash student masks at the end of every day if you wish. The students will leave masks at school if they wish to have them washed. If they ride the bus or are going to another location, this will require having an extra mask to wear. It is recommended all students have at least two masks.

A word about masks - No matter your viewpoint, and the possible discomfort, the wearing of a mask can be a life lesson. The mask may have some effect on deflecting infection for the wearer - but more importantly, the mask is about protecting others. The Camelot Creed has been to "do the right thing, because it is the right thing to do". And, for every decision, "to think of others first". This invisible menace is still mysterious in so many ways. But the simple act of wearing a mask, no matter the discomfort or distaste, is a symbol of caring about others, of serving others, of living a life of doing what is best for others. Presented that way, our children can learn the selflessness that makes all of us better. I hope you will support our quest to do the best to keep all safe, and at the same time, teach this life lesson of generosity and unselfishness.

Please make every attempt to arrive at school between 7:45-8:03. The doors will not be open to the school until 7:45. Students arriving earlier will be socially distanced outside. The playground is closed until 4:00 each day and will only be used during recess. You will be advised of your child's entrance and exit at parent/teacher meeting the week of the 24th-28th. School will be dismissed promptly at 3:22 and all students must be out of the building by 3:30. All students will leave school property immediately unless they are awaiting the bus. The playground and school property is closed at 3:30 each day.

All students will be given a lanyard with ID and a place to clip their masks when they are not worn. All students must show ID for lunch.

Lockers will be used only at the beginning and end of the day. Students should have a cinch sack to carry resources. The checklist of school supplies is accurate and will help students have resources not utilized or shared by other students.

Please take temperature in the AM prior to school for your learner. If it is above 100.4, students must stay home. If students are exhibiting any Covid symptoms they must stay home. If a student is exhibiting symptoms or has an elevated temperature, they will be taken to our isolation room and parents must retrieve them immediately. The nurse and possibly the Department of Health may give advice or regulations for return and assistance.

Camelot will be one-to-one this year, meaning every learner will have a computer. For face-to-face, students will leave their computers at school and they will be sanitized each day.

One final small change - I encourage all parents to utilize the northeast parking lot for drop off and pick up. It is safer than the street and the front entrance now is limited in parking.

*MCL and Traditional classes remain as the basic instructional philosophies of those programs and will change only as necessary for safety. Your selection for your child remains as selected last spring.

*Remote Learning - This delivery will be scheduled like a normal school day. There will however, be one instructor for all subjects and the instructor will create a schedule that will have intermittent (likely 10-15 minute) Zoom sessions, with activities and check-in for each

subject area. EnCore will also provide remote sessions. Band and orchestra will schedule accordingly. Students will be expected to meet with all teachers as per their schedule. Students will be expected to complete tasks on-time and per teacher guidelines. Parents will be expected to assist when they can, however, they will generally be asked to not be present during class Zooms to relieve any distractions to all learners and continue work to independence. Remote classes will be split into two cohorts. Materials that can be distributed will be picked up by parents in the foyer of Camelot at designated times. Most items will be online and paperless. The learning management system, Canvas, will be utilized as much as possible. Students who do not have a computer at home will be issued a school computer. Students without internet can request from the school. Please let your remote teacher know of your needs at the beginning of the year appointment. Remote learners wishing to take band or orchestra will do so virtually to begin the school year. We will review as we evolve the program.

*Should there be a need for classes, teams, or grade levels to quarantine or isolate - decisions of delivery will be made at that time.

*The remote and face-to-face learning will be under constant review, but it is hoped that enough information and experience will be gathered by Thanksgiving to enable for concrete visioning for the second semester.

*Office visits - Visitors will not be permitted in the school other than the lobby and a small area inside the office for any business. By appointment, some visitation in the office may occur. Please wait, distanced in the lobby and the administrative assistant or other staff will let you in when appropriate. Visitors may not attend lunch or have any other articulations in the school.

*Class lists will be available to teachers this week and to all by the end of the week. Teachers will contact parents to set up parent/teacher beginning of the year appointments for August 24-28th. Times will be 8-4 each day with the exception of Thursday, 11-7. Parents will receive a link to a sign-up. Camelot encourages all to attend physically, with masks and social distance. Only one parent please. However, if there is a reason to Zoom, teachers will take those requests and make accommodations. This includes the remote teachers, of course. Schedules for students, including remote learning students, will be completed the week of the 24th.

*Pictures will be taken during the school year on a designated day. As soon as that day is scheduled, I will send it out. Remote learning students will also have a secure door and appointments to come to Camelot and have their picture taken.

*5th grade parents - If you are interested in band - there will be a separate email following this one for you. Please look forward to information from Mrs. Cogswell.

This is the game plan so far and there are many more details we are working on. Priority is being given to the safety of all and the well-being of our community of learners. Your homeroom teacher will have more detail and can answer questions that may be more connected to your learner. This situation is not optimum and will take self-sacrifice. The real win of this game plan will be our gratefulness when it is over. And that we don't forget what we have, and what we can be. 'He writes not that you won or lost, but how you played the game.' Let's play this game with optimism and the usual incredible Brookings' perspective.

Willing servant to the Camelot and Brookings Community - Kevin