



Jewel Askew Elementary School 11200 Wood Lodge Houston, Texas 77077 (281)368-2100

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Askew Family,

What a summer! We have been excitedly working around the clock as we plan, brainstorm, design, problem solve, and rally for all things Virtual Askew 2.0. We've met with our teachers, PTO Board, and leaders of neighboring schools to collaborate and connect. The task of rolling out a meaningful virtual curriculum that can seamlessly move into an in-person structure, and then back to virtual again with minimal notice is HUGE. But friends, I am excited to report we are ready for the challenge, because we get to do it with YOU! As we tackle our preparation and planning strategies, it is important to us that all community members are included as we pave our way into a new school year.

TECHNOLOGY NEEDS:

Let's start with information that we need from you all. To ensure each of our students has technology, we're asking that you fill out a quick survey so we can assess needs. You will complete ONE survey for EACH of your Askew students. The survey will be located on our school website on Monday, August 10, 2020 and will need to be submitted by Friday, August 14, 2020.

DAY TO DAY INSTRUCTION:

While I remain proud and in awe of what our amazing teachers pulled off in the spring, Virtual Askew 2.0 will look vastly different than operating in crisis mode. There are countless details still to work out, but here is what we know for sure when it comes to day to day instruction this fall.

- Microsoft Teams and the HISD HUB will be the two platforms utilized by all HISD students and families
- Live whole group instruction will take place each day
- Live small group instruction will happen throughout the week
- Two grades in each subject/content area will be submitted weekly
- Attendance will be taken each day at 2:30pm
- Daily schedules will be consistent per grade level

- Packets will be created and sent by HISD and will include grade level activities aligned to the standards for the grade level. Askew will be following the pacing calendar and will cover the same standards. However, these activities will look different than the material that our Askew teachers create and upload to the HISD HUB.

It is our goal that virtual learning replicates in person, classroom-based instruction as closely as we can, so when face-to-face learning resumes, the transition is as smooth as possible. We have always prioritized student-teacher relationships and recognize the importance of making that happen at the beginning of each year. Our teachers are the best of the best and just like they do in person, this important time of the year will be used to establish those relationships and set routines and expectations for the year ahead. They are a magical group of educators and I am looking forward to sitting in on live lessons and watching this unfold.

ADDITIONAL FACTS:

- Right now, our plan is to communicate class placements the week of September. We know the wait is hard, but we appreciate your patience. If there is an adjustment to that date, we promise to let you know before information is sent out.
- As you may have already considered, our Extended Day program will be on hold until we're back face to face full-time.
- The district will be rolling out several opportunities for you all to learn about both Microsoft Teams and the HISD HUB and we will distribute that information as we receive it.
- As we finalize details around grades, schedules and our beginning of the year activities, again, we will get the information to you all.
- SAVE THE DATES:
 - Tuesday, August 25 – Technology RETURN to Askew ES – 12pm-3pm (for those who received devices in the Spring of 2020; devices will need to be updated, cleaned, reimaged, etc.)
 - Wednesday, September 2 – Askew Virtual Meet the Teacher/Open House – 5:30pm-7:30pm (via Microsoft Teams)
 - Thursday, September 3 – Student Materials Distribution at Askew ES – 11am-1pm AND 4pm-6pm (parents may choose either time slot)

There is nothing my team and I want more than to make our virtual classrooms feel as spirited and loving as they always have been. If you have questions or if there is something you want to talk through, don't hesitate to reach out. I will be in touch more frequently, so we all remain informed. Our community is like no other and I will never get tired of repeating that line over and over again. Please take care of yourselves and your families.

Best,

Ebony Cumby, Principal