



April 30, 2021

Dear Fletcher Hills Parents,

I have a few important updates for you this week. We are fine tuning our processes here and I want to be sure we are partnering in this work so that the remainder of the school year maximizes learning and flows smoothly.

Our first concern is Monday Zoom sessions. These are critical days for your child to attend school. All of our classes are teaching important concepts on Mondays and it is imperative that ALL students Zoom with their class on Monday. This past week we had 5 times more students absent on Monday than on any other day the week before. **Mondays are not optional**. Any student who is not on Zoom on Monday is considered absent and we cannot allow them to return to in-person learning on Tuesday without knowing why they missed school on Monday. Our teachers are moving forward on Mondays and are continuing to teach essential standards your child will need next year. Every Monday is important and there are only 6 more this year. Please make sure your child is present for all 6.

We are also learning that we need to put some parameters around how and when students can switch from in-person to online-only learning. This is not something that can be switched day to day or for convenience. Rather, when you select in-person or online learning for your child, you are committing to attending that program daily. If you are taking a vacation or you are heading out of town for a sports event you cannot switch to online learning for that day. If that happens you will need to call in the absence for your child and they will miss school for that day. If your child is ill one day and you choose to keep him/her home because he/she is not feeling well you MUST go through the health office in order for us to determine if your child's situation is one that allows him/her to go online for that day or for however many days are required until he/she is allowed to return to school. We have strict guidelines we must follow that require us to document every absence. It is critical that you not say your child is sick unless he/she truly is sick. When a child is called in sick they must remain home for 10 days or until we receive a negative COVID PCR test result.

There are several reasons that we cannot allow students to pop in and out of online learning for a day here and there including, not all teachers have online only students and they cannot switch to concurrent teaching without ample notice, students staying home are not likely to have all of the learning materials they need for at home learning including workbooks or devices, and we have two separate attendance monitoring systems now and need notice to move students from one to the other. Concurrent teaching is a complex endeavor on the part of the teacher



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Eileen Cotter, Principal

and on the part of the school. Keeping track of which children are present and which ones are not, and why, is critical for us to ensure that all students who are allowed on campus are healthy and able to be here.

I hope this information helps clarify both the importance of Monday attendance and the complexities involved in switching from in-person to online learning. We are happy to accommodate when we can but we have restrictions we must follow. If you have any questions about this information please email me or your child's teacher for additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Mrs. Cotter". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mrs. Cotter, Principal