

**Coffee with Mike Mullin; Parent Q & A Session      Wednesday, April 1, 2020**

**Q:** In the High School Prep Schedule, what is the Book Club (Grades 5-8)?

**A:** This was a group that was created by Ms. Athas, a virtual book club meeting, expanding outside the normal curriculum for more social interaction.

**Q:** Is there a reason that documents and recorded sessions cannot be uploaded to Microsoft Teams as well as the Portal?

**A:** All livestream sessions as well as other resources from teachers are in the Portal.

**Q:** Is there a time after which teachers cannot post assignments. If the last time we check after 5 pm – Can we call ourselves safe from student obligations?

**A:** Mike will ask Mr. Esposito the question about posting assignments online.

**Q:** Is Ms. Bostick the new 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Spanish Teacher?

**A:** Ms. Bostick is taking over the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade virtually until after the Easter break.

**Q:** How are the High School Prep curriculum goals going to be met with only 1 hour of instruction per week, when previously it was 4 hours?

**A:** We will do the best we can to meet those goals. We are doing all we can to learn more about distance learning. The teachers and students need to be more independent and accessible. As we go through this, I anticipate more will be added.

**Q:** Where do explorers and Pre-K students turn in their homework?

**A:** I will ask Ms. Weiss to reach out to the families.

**Q:** Can all assignments be posted in Microsoft Teams?

**A:** Every assignment will be posted in the Parent Portal.

**Q:** Are you planning for summer school in light of the Federal social distancing guidelines?

**A:** I have not thought that far ahead. I really don't know. If the teachers felt that they are not satisfied with student's academics in certain areas, we will try and do more. Our teachers are incredibly committed to this effort.

**Q:** Noting that the classes are recorded and saved, if you're child does not make the live session, how does the check-in for class happen?

**A:** We capture attendance, whether it's live or via the recorded session. This counts towards attendance. Recorded sessions are up for five calendar days for students to access before they are deleted.

**Q:** Can the primary school have a chat group as a way to connect with their friends?

**A:** Yes. As I mentioned earlier, I suspect that we will become more familiar with the tools and resources that we have. Once this happens and we have smooth running classes, we will offer an opportunity for the kids to get together virtually.

**Q:** Is it possible to offer live office hours with the teachers?

**A:** They are live, and the students and teachers can communicate. Teachers are allowed to have outside

live hours, as long as it's recorded and if the Division Heads are okay with it. To protect the students, we are not recording their faces.

**Q:** Why are we still having Spring Break?

**A:** Teachers need a break from all of this. The students need this time as well. I anticipate that during the break, teachers will continue to work specifically with technology. Also, I'm asking that you do not share lessons and other information on Facebook.

**Q:** Can there be an opportunity for Division Heads to host a town hall such as this?

**A:** I think that would be a great possibility. It's important for transparency and would require cooperation and teamwork. Stay tuned!

**Q:** Can you be specific about attendance being taken in the Parent Portal?

**A:** In high school prep, the students can log in, and it's for live and recorded sessions. They even ask the students to say "Hi" as a double way to check them in.

**Q:** To reduce the load on parents, can homeroom teachers log the students in?

**A:** I think parents have to log in to Microsoft Teams. This was the easiest and most efficient way to get students logged in.

**Q:** Can you send information about Classroom Behavior and Rules to the parents and students?

**A:** Mrs. Falk may have sent to the primary school parents already. I will ask the Division Heads to send out to everyone.

**Q:** How are parents going to be able to fulfill their volunteer hours now that school is being held in a virtual setting?

**A:** Volunteer hour requirements will depend on the length of the extended school closure. If virtual learning extends to the end of this school year, the volunteer hour requirements will be waived.

**Q:** Can there be a coffee hour for each school, so that parents can ask questions and gain more answers for that specific school? This would hopefully include the Heads of that school.

**A:** Mr. Esposito hosted a coffee hour for High School Prep parents last Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Ms. Weiss and Ms. Falk will be hosting coffee hours for Daisy Lane School and Primary School parents when we return from Spring Break.

**Q:** Will there be some type of credit/refund given to the preschool age parents?

**A:** We are exploring the possibility of issuing credits to preschool age parents for the 2020-2021 school year.

**Q:** The virtual classroom setting for my child's age group requires significant parent participation paired with a lot of parents, including myself, teleworking which requires us to either take leave or make up hours after normal hours in order to compensate. My question is whether a partial refund of tuition would be considered.

**A:** In order to accommodate our parents' teleworking schedules, virtual learning sessions are recorded and can be accessed through the Portal for up to five calendar days before they are deleted. We are committed and dedicated to ensuring that our students continue receiving their education through virtual learning. Currently, we have not considered a partial refund of tuition.

**Q:** Is it possible for the special/enrichment courses to be longer than 15 minutes? Most of the lesson is required to be done after the short classes. The children are into the classes, and feel the classes end abruptly because they are so short.

**A:** We will speak to Mrs. Falk to ensure the special/enrichment courses are extended. Special/Enrichment courses should be 30 minutes.

**Q:** Will there be refunds for the aftercare activities paid for (Bells and Reading Theater)?

**A:** Credits will be issued for aftercare activities that are already paid for, including Bells and Reading Theater.