



Friday, April 24, 2020

Dear Students and Parents,

These are stressful times, yet we push on. Thank you for your grit, thank you for your support, and thank you for your feedback. After a comprehensive review, I am pleased to share details of the 2.0 version of our Distance Learning (DL) program. First, let me summarize the key takeaways from the survey: Too much screen time, too little movement/physical activity and fresh air, workload is too great for most, everything takes longer from a distance, students are rushed and don't have enough time in the school day to complete their work, too little hands on (off screen) learning, stress is too high (among students, parents and teachers), not enough connection between students, teachers and parents.

In response, the staff and I have created a new class schedule (attached) that addresses all of the above and includes the following key elements.

1. Academic classes have been reduced from three times per week to two. Design and Art are reduced from two to one.
Why? This reduction reduces screen time and overall workload and will hopefully reduce stress.
2. Mandatory off screen breaks throughout the day.
Why? Students need to have a release from the screens, get fresh air and move. This will also take away the rush from one class to another.
3. Daily study hall from 1:00-2:00 pm.
Why? Students need time each day to finish up work and they need to be able to ask their teachers for help. Reduce stress of additional work beyond the school day.
4. PHE twice a week in the afternoon.
Why? We all need to stay healthy and strong.
5. [Passion Pursuits](#) - extending and enrichment during this unique time of isolation.
Why? Physical and social distancing present an amazing opportunity to grow and Learn in individual and innovative ways. Adrian will coordinate and homeroom will support and guide.
6. Social and interest Clubs on Friday. These will include teacher led and student led.
Why? Offer students a time to socialize and have fun while at the same time learning and contributing.

This new schedule will begin on Monday, April 27th. As always, thanks in advance for your support and understanding and please don't hesitate to be in touch should you have any questions or concerns.

Yours in partnership and have a great weekend,

Scott