



LORD ASQUITH SCHOOL

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Hello LAS Community!

I just wanted to once again say thank you for your patience and support as we navigate the transition to remote learning. Please remember that this is new to ALL of us – parents, students, and teachers – but we will figure it out together! I am hearing from the teachers that many families are experiencing some frustration and confusion with the situation, and some are feeling overwhelmed by having to balance their own work and home responsibilities along with guiding their children's learning in a way that they have never had to before. I have to admit that I am feeling **exactly** the same. But I want to tell you something that I often say to my staff and the students at school: ***This is really hard, but we've got this!*** We will get through this by working together and keeping focus on what's MOST important (family, health, and growth), and when we come out the other side, we will be stronger than ever.

I also wanted to share with you some of the reminders that I have given to the teachers and support staff to help with their own anxieties:

- **Supplemental Learning is optional** – Our teachers are trying to meet the learning needs of as many students as families as we can, but everyone's home context is different and we realize that there are MANY barriers in place that might make it difficult for families to fully engage in the learning, AND THAT IS OK! Please do whatever works for your family and remember that kids can engage 100%, 0%, or anywhere in between.
- **This is not Home Schooling, it is Crisis Schooling** – None of us have chosen this situation, and we are all just trying to make the best of it. Our goal is not to continue with formal education, but to keep students as engaged in *learning* as we can. Parents are NOT expected to deliver curriculum.
- **This isn't normal, so stop pretending that it is** – There is no way that we can ever replicate the experience of the classroom through remote learning. It just can't happen, so parents, students, and teachers can't be expected to try to recreate what's "normal." Supplemental learning SHOULD look different. Square pegs can't go in round holes, and we should stop trying to make that happen.
- **Don't let perfect be the enemy of good** – It doesn't need to be perfect. It likely will never be. Start small, do what you can, and then work to improve. There will be things that go wrong, technology that doesn't work, and times that we fail. And that's ok. We'll learn from the mistakes and try again. We'll figure it out together.
- **Connections over curriculum** – At this point I am far more focused on making sure that all of our students, families, and staff are doing ok than I am with students completing their curriculum outcomes for Math. We don't know how long this will last, but no matter what, please be assured that next year will likely look different too. We are going to all have to sit down and figure out what the students missed from this year and adjust our teaching to make sure that we get everyone caught up to where they would normally be. We will figure that part out. The kids' *education* will be ok and we can worry about that later – right now is the time to make sure that their minds, bodies and spirits are taken care of.



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- **Are the kids learning?** – This is our assessment question for what we are doing. If the answer is YES – keep going. If the answer is NO – what do we need to change? It's as simple as that.

These are messages that the staff has received to guide their work and I wanted the students and parents to hear them as well so that we are all moving in the same direction together. We know that this is a stressful situation and I want to ask you to **please** take the pressure off yourselves to make it perfect. We are here for you, we are here for the kids, and we are here for each other.

This is really hard, but we've got this.

Take care everyone!

Brett Kirk
Principal
Asquith School