

TO: WISD parents-guardians-students
FROM: Staff and Administration
RE: ALTERNATIVE LEARNING PLAN (week 7)
DATE: May 4, 2020

“An education capable of saving humanity is no small undertaking; it involves the spiritual development of mankind, the enhancement of our values as individuals, and the preparation of young people to understand the times in which they live.” (Maria Montessori; Education and Peace)

Happy Spring!

Early May marks a special time for those individuals across the United States who have dedicated themselves to public education. Monday began “Teacher Appreciation Week 2020”. During this time, we celebrate the WISD teachers for their unwavering dedication to our students and their families during these challenging, and often uncertain times. Without the perseverance and commitment of our staff, we would not be as successful in delivering an alternative learning plan to the children that we serve. We want to thank them for their time, their creativity and their patience as we move through this last segment of our school year.

We are also mindful of the new educational role that many of our school community’s parents and guardians have assumed during this virtual learning time. We are thankful for your support, as well as your cooperation in assisting our school district’s promise to afford an equitable educational opportunity for our students.

- Here is another opportunity for families during this time where students are learning from home: the Pro Football Hall of Fame is proud to offer an educational “Hall of Fame Live” program focused on “Careers in the NFL” on Friday, May 8th, 2020 at 11: am CST, featuring special guest Ben Liebenberg, the Director of Photography/Lead Photographer for the National Football League.

This program will provide students and fans alike the opportunity to learn about Mr. Liebenberg’s career in Sports Photography, with a special look into the Pro Football Hall of Fame’s 52nd Annual Photo Contest, which Mr. Liebenberg is a judge for. This year, as you will see during the program, the winner in the Action Category of the Dave Boss Award of Excellence was Isaiah Downing (a USA Today Sports Photographer) for his picture “Air Allen” which depicted Los Angeles Chargers Wide Receiver Keenan Allen diving for a touchdown against the Denver Broncos in their 23-20 win on December 1st, 2019. All of the information for this event is posted on the WISD website for your perusal.

- Creative Stride has forwarded another video for families to watch. This is posted on the website, along with the four others that Jodi has made available:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RcbZAFjJaQY&feature=youtu.be>

We are posting the newest information from the United Way of Door County below. This is the information that has also been posted on the school webpage. They have made it available for immediate release.

- **May is Mental Health Month**, and it has never been more important than this year. Awareness of mental health and wellness is not just for the one in five people with a mental health concern in any given year. As we all try to grapple with the impact of the coronavirus on our daily lives, all of us are experiencing some degree of isolation, loneliness, stress and anxiety.
- In years past, the Mental Health Focus Group of Door County has typically hosted a community event featuring a speaker or film discussion highlighting a mental health topic in May. This year, despite the need to practice social distancing, the group has come up with some other great activities to get the community involved and to shine a light on mental health.
- Thursday, May 7th is National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day. We're calling all youngsters – and the young at heart – to “Chalk It Up to End Stigma!” Let's color our neighborhood driveways and sidewalks with positive messages about mental wellness, words of thanks for the helpers among us, and cheerful pictures to instill hope and joy in the midst of loneliness. We encourage you to send a photo of your chalk creation to cami@unitedwaydc.com, with subject line “chalk drawings”, and we may post it at #Door County Mental Wellness. Creativity supports mental wellness!
- Friday, May 15th at 6:00, join us for a community-wide Front Porch Gathering to remind us “We're All in This Together”. Turn your porch light on in support of mental health, and gather in front of your homes to safely connect with your neighbors. Connections support mental wellness!
- The week of May 17-23rd, make cards and write letters to individuals isolated in nursing homes and assisted living facilities, or a senior citizen feeling lonely at home. * Supporting others supports mental wellness!
- The week of May 24-30th, write heartfelt thank you notes to our selfless health care workers and first responders. * Gratitude supports mental wellness!
- * Mail cards and letters directly to individuals or facilities, or send to or drop off at the Door County Aging and Disability Resource Center, 916 N. 14th Ave., Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235, and we'll help with delivery. [If dropping off at the ADRC, please call ahead (920-746-2372) to be sure someone is available to meet you at the door.]
- If you or someone you know needs some extra support during this time, there are resources available.
- The Door County Emergency Support Coalition (DCESC) has implemented the Mental and Emotional Support Helpline (MESH), comprised of volunteers with experience in human services, counseling or social work, is available to reach out to those who request NON-EMERGENCY assistance and support with anxiety, loneliness, isolation, fear, grief, and other emotional responses to the COVID-19 crisis. MESH volunteers are available most days from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 pm. To request mental and emotional support for COVID-19 and other

available resources, contact DCEC at: <https://doorcountypulse.com/tag/covid-19> or call 920-421-9111 for Northern Door or 920-746-6927 for Central and Southern Door.

- The Department of Health and Human Services also offers supportive contacts, as well as information and referrals, ongoing counseling, and case management supports for those who need it. Call 920-746-7155 to access these services. For 24/7 help in a mental health crisis, call 920-746-2588.
- The tools each of us uses to keep us mentally healthy will be unique. But the Mental Health Focus Group of Door County and Mental Health America want everyone to know that mental illnesses are real, and recovery is possible. Finding what works for you may not be easy but can be achieved by gradually making small changes and building on those successes. For more information, visit “Door County Mental Wellness” on Facebook, or Mental Health America at www.mhanational.org/may, [#Tools2Thrive](https://twitter.com/Tools2Thrive). Contact: Cori McFarlane, Door County Dept. of Health & Human Services, cmcfarlane@co.door.wi.us; 920-746-7155 for more information.

Finally, we want to recognize the fact that we are at the midterm point of the 4th quarter. With that being said, we also recognize that the phrase, “new normal” is being utilized regularly during this time. We wanted to share with you something we have access to as a school community that is not “new” but is rather a “normal” part of district operation. This powerful web based platform is called INFINITE CAMPUS. The WISD has been using this online tool for a number of years.

Infinite Campus keeps our district’s data talking in real time. Student information and subsequent data is entered, and is immediately available across the district. When teachers input grades and academic progress information, parents and guardians can access their child’s information instantly via the Campus Portal. Infinite Campus is important for students, as they too, can access their grades, assignments and test information using their login and password. A number of aspects of this information is also shared with the Wisconsin DPI as well as other state and federal education agencies, as required for mandated reports and financial requirements.

Parents and guardians also have the ability to access this same information for all of their children by using their personal log in and password. Infinite Campus gives immediate, real time grades, assignments and teacher comments to caregivers. We encourage each family to utilize Infinite Campus to check on the progress of their 3-12th grade children via this online tool. All 4/5K-2nd grade student progress is based upon a standards based report card. This information can be accessed from your youngster’s teachers directly.

Please contact the District office if you are having difficulty logging into your Infinite Campus account. If you have forgotten your login and password, we can retrieve that for you as well. Should you need any tutoring or direction on using this tool, we can help with that, too! Call the office and make any arrangements that will help you to access your child(ren)’s accounts. The staff will have all information updated by Friday of this week, so that everyone has a clear picture of their individual child’s progress to date. This will help all of us manage the final weeks of this school year.

Thank you for your cooperation and patience. We are committed to ensuring an equitable educational experience for all of the WISD students and their families. We could not manage this alone, as our partnership with you is tantamount to the success of our alternative learning plan. We are grateful and humbled by your positivity in working with us during this time.

Take care and stay well.