March 29, 2020

Dear Families,

My hope is that you are all safe and healthy. I am thinking of you, miss you, and hope that we will all be together at school again very soon! These are unprecedented times and we are doing everything in very different ways. I want you to know that if you need anything at all, please let me know. I am here to support.

To begin our work together, I have provided three packets that are at varying levels for you to choose from. You know your child and the work that they are capable of doing. I will give you some ideas about how you can support your child and adapt the work to meet their needs. Remember, the lessons are review or practice, and not new learning.

• Sight Word Practice – 33 worksheets that students have done and are familiar with the format. Focus on one word per day. Please feel free to adapt for your child to make it meaningful for them and you! Here are just a few ways you can use these worksheets. If you need more ideas, please let me know.
  1. If your child is able, they can use the word to write sentences and have them read it to you.
  2. You can write a sentence with the word for them to copy and practice reading.
  3. Do a sight word scavenger hunt to see how many times they can find the sight word.
  4. They can practice writing the word.
  5. Make flash cards to practice reading the words (if able, the student can make them!) We also sent flash cards home, so some of you may still have them around your house. 😊

• Preschool Packet – this packet has a great social story for kids that helps explain why we are not at school. It is in both English and Spanish. The packet also includes many ideas for activities that you can do with your child at home and websites that might be useful for enrichment purposes.

• Modified K-5 Elementary Packet – this packet can be accessed on the Tacoma Public Schools website. Click on the resources tab and then on Pre-K/Elem and look for Modified K-5. It contains several activities for reading, writing, and math. Focus on one activity per day in each area (reading, writing, and math). Some of the reading activities have several parts. I suggest dividing them up to be used over multiple days. Similar to the preschool packet, it includes additional ideas and resources for enrichment purposes.

If you do not have access to a computer and printer, please let me know so that I can arrange to have the materials printed for you to pick up at school.

Additional ideas for students during closure:
❖ Math – counting objects around the house or during walks, practice coin identification and value, practice writing numbers 1-20 (and beyond), number recognition

❖ Reading – READ EVERYDAY and ask questions about what is read, Storyline Online (website), letter recognition

❖ Writing – write a couple sentences about something they read, practice writing name (first and last), practice writing anything!

❖ Youtube has many videos/songs that are academic (stories read online, numbers, coins, sight words, word families, and so much more!).

❖ Create a Go Noodle account (it’s free!) – great for movement especially on rainy days! Includes exercise, dance, mindfulness and so much more!

The following is from our school librarian that might be useful:

-Go to Tacoma Public Library>Online Library>A-Z eresource list>select the resource you would like>enter student ID

**The Tacoma Library** is an excellent resource for research, reading and more.

- **Student Ids allow access to all online resources including current news and more. Below are some highlights.**
  - Homework Help
    - HelpNow
      - (Grades 3-12) Live Homework Help, Skills Building and Writing Workshops. Tutoring services are available everyday from 3 PM to 10 PM.
  - Opposing Viewpoints (Great for opinion papers)
    - Opposing Viewpoints In Context
      - (Grades 7 and up) All about today’s hottest social issues. Research, analyze and organize a variety of data for writing assignments, preparing for debates, creating presentations and more.
  - Science and other subjects
    - Science In Context
      - Authoritative, curriculum-oriented information for assignments and projects on earth science and life science, to space, technology, mathematics and science history.

- **Staff also have access to information using their staff Ids.**
  - Curriculum Help
    - Teachables
      - Printable activities from Scholastic for any subject: math, science, reading comprehension, STEM, writing and more. Perfect for parents, childcare providers, and educators!
- **Hoopla – Video and audio**
  
  Enjoy movies, TV shows, eBooks, comics, music albums, and audiobooks on Hoopla. Check out up to 10 items per month.

- **Kanopy – videos (Check out Great Courses)**
  
  With Kanopy stream “thoughtful entertainment” including independent and popular films, documentaries, The Criterion Collection, The Great Courses, PBS and more to your preferred device, including Roku. Enjoy up to 10 videos per month, a total of 10 play credits. Also includes great content for Kids!

Please note: Some online resources require an [TPL eLibrary card](https://www.tpl.org/libraries/) or full-use library card. eLibrary cards can be applied for online for instant use.

- The library home page is known to students and has a wealth of resources for students to access from home: keyboarding, math, research. Go to Tacoma Public Schools website>Students>Library Websites>Scroll down to First Creek. This takes you our library website with many links/resources.

Whew - I know this is a lot! I do not want you to get overwhelmed, but rather wanted to provide enough for you to choose from. Consider these materials for use over the next several days. You know your child best and what they can do! Some students will be able to do the work more independently and others will need more support to complete especially in writing. Use your best judgment! As stated earlier, the activities are intended for review or practice and not new learning.

The intention is for students to engage in review/practice about 2 to 3 hours per day. This can be broken up throughout the day – you will know when your child (or you) needs a break. Be kind to yourself - we are all doing the best we can with this “new normal.” Please feel free to let me know if you need anything at all – I am here to support you! I will be checking in by phone sometime this week to see how things are going, but you can email me anytime at jbergma@tacoma.k12.wa.us. I am working from home and check multiple times at day and evening. I look forward to talking with you soon and please tell your child hello for me and that I miss them! Stay strong, safe, and healthy - we will get through this together!

Sincerely,

Joanne Bergman