

Dear LFS Families,

While we would strongly prefer to be able to continue with on-campus learning, we are pleased to present to you our **revised distance learning (DL) schedule** (see attached). As I mentioned in last Friday's *Weekly Notes*, this iteration of our DL schedule builds on the successes we had last spring and earlier this fall. It also incorporates parental feedback and our teachers' experiences and perspectives on what is appropriate and effective in terms of online learning for each age level. Key changes include:

- A longer school day (until 3PM) for children in grades 1-6;
- Expanded specials class offerings each week; and
- Weekly on-campus outdoor time for all cohorts in grades Pre-K to 6.

We are particularly excited to be offering the **weekly outdoor times on campus**, as we see them as a way to balance all of the screen time with time for children to run and play together and to see their teachers. Providing these social/emotional outlets and maintaining strong peer and student/teacher connections feels critical. A few reminders about these sessions:

- Please remember to complete the health screening form on the days when your child(ren) will be on campus; and
- Let us know if you foresee any difficulty getting your child to these on-campus sessions. We are committed to doing all that we can to enable all children to participate if possible.

Please also note the following:

- **Chromebook and Materials Distribution:** We will be sending children home with their chromebooks tomorrow (Friday, Nov. 20). Teachers will be distributing additional materials, either tomorrow, on Nov. 30, on Dec. 1, or on one of the dates when your children will be on campus for an outdoor session anyway. *Please look for more information directly from your teachers about materials distribution.* We want to make sure that the children have what they need to fully engage in our DL program.
- **Landing Page and Technology Help:** We want to make the technology as seamless as possible for you and your children. We will continue to use our school's [distance learning "landing page"](#) to host all teacher DL pages and all key links. That's your "go to" place for all information you and your children will need. There you also can find the phone numbers for technology assistance via Tr. Rich (for grades Pre-K, K, and 1/2) and Tr. Amelia (for grades 3-6), as well as our tech-help email address (LFSstechsupport@lansdownefriendsschool.org). Please reach out if you are facing any tech-related difficulty.

- **Parent to Parent Support:** Speaking of addressing difficulty, our SCA leadership and a group of parent volunteers recently sent out this [survey](#) to organize efforts to support families experiencing difficulties. As a community, we are looking to help one another as we face the challenge of having children home at least into the month of January. In particular, I am grateful for the leadership of Christy Bracken-Vasquez, Clara Flores, Rhonda Hart, and Abby Martucci.
- **LFS Campus During DL:** We will continue to have an administrator presence on campus each day during our time in DL. Please do not hesitate to call the main number (610-623-2548) during school hours. Teachers will primarily be teaching from their homes except for the times when they are here for their outdoor sessions.

While we are disappointed to be transitioning back to distance learning, we are grateful for the time we have had here on campus with all of the children. We believe as well that these critical weeks on campus have cemented relationships and routines that will make the transition to DL a smooth one. Whether in DL or not, we look to continue to live our mission of engaging children in a challenging program while also supporting them socially and emotionally as guided by our foundational Quaker values. We look forward to continuing to see you at Meetings for Worship, Gatherings, and other school events via Zoom.

We also pledge to reassess our decision-making regarding whether to return to campus or stay in DL mode in the days following the winter holidays. We want the children to be on campus as soon as possible, but we need to make sure that when we do so, we can sufficiently protect their health and safety, as well as that of our teachers and the entire LFS community. Ideally we'll see a dramatic lessening of viral transmissions over the coming weeks.

Please stay safe and have a wonderful Thanksgiving Break. Don't hesitate to reach out to me, as always, with any thoughts or questions.

Sincerely, Tr. Neal

p.s. As a reminder, here's the plan for the coming days:

- November 23 & 24: No School (time for teachers to prepare for the transition back to DL)
- November 25, 26, & 27: No School for Thanksgiving Break
- November 30: No School (planned report writing day for teachers)
- December 1-4: First days of DL for all students (Grades Pre-K to 6)
- December 7-11: Continued DL
- December 14-18: Continued DL
- December 21 to January 1: No School for Winter Break
- January 4-11: Continued DL (reassess ability to return Pre-K students sooner)

- January 11-15: Continued DL
- January 19: Reassess DL versus RTC (for some or all students)

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