

SEPTEMBER // 2020 // ISSUE NUMBER 2

### **NEW WINDSOR SCHOOL MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER**



#### **Education Technology Corner**

### **Virtual Learning Hub**

NECSD Virtual Learning Support site will provide the most up to date information on anything related to technology and Virtual Learning for our Students and Families. It includes sections for general help, resources, help line, and forms related to technology.

Please make sure to visit the site on a regular basis to be informed of current technological updates.

If you have any questions or have specific questions, please reach out to the contact listed below.

helpdesk@necsd.net / (845)568-6532





New Windsor School Staff Practicing Social Distancing

# Principal's Message

#### **MR. CAMT**

Welcome Back! I hope each one of you had an enjoyable summer with your families and friends! As we prepare for the beginning of school, remember to work hard, ask questions, demonstrate your potential, and most importantly continue being the shining stars that each of you are everyday!

Do not forget to submit your assignments and participate in your Google Classrooms.

New Windsor School MISSES each one of you boys and girls! We look forward to seeing you all soon! Take care and be well!



Mr. Camt during family pickup of materials



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#### **DISTANCE LEARNING**

### **Getting Ready for the New Year**

What can we expect?

#### **BY: MR. LEE**

It seems like we never really had a summer vacation this year.

We ended our last school year virtually, and now we will begin our new year virtually as well.

If we look at the positive side things, we are all pretty familiar with virtual learning – but there will be some differences for the beginning of our new year. (In a good way!)

There will be more defined virtual schedule, where students will be engaged in more face to face (virtually, of course) instruction as compared to the end of last year.

Google Classroom information will be distributed in the near future for the students and families to get ready to begin their virtual learning.

I do wish that we can all be back in the buildings, but safety comes first! We want to ensure the health and safety of our students and families – so it goes without saying that beginning the year virtually makes the most sense. The district's plan is to start hybrid learning by the beginning of October. Of course we cannot predict the future – but it would be a thoughtful transition into hopefully having everyone come back into the building at some point during the school year.

I want to ensure you that our teachers and staff are doing everything we can to make this transition smooth.

I am looking forward to meeting you (virtually) in the near future! Take care and be well.

P.S. Please remember to fill out the online Parent/Guardian Information Survey! Here is the link just in case! <u>https://tinyurl.com/y36rrwls</u>

#### Mr. Lee



Social distance, please





#### **NWS RESOURCES**

### **Online Resources**

There are plenty of resources for our students and families to maximize their learning.

Please make sure to visit the district link for online resources: District Online Resource Link: <u>https://tinyurl.com/y6fogyzw</u>

Below are links to some other important websites – but please make sure to visit the district site for a more comprehensive list of links:

- Launchpad: <u>https://tinyurl.com/y6nujwao</u>
- Flipgrid: <u>https://info.flipgrid.com/</u>
- Reflex Math: https://www.reflexmath.com/
- BrainPOP: <u>https://www.brainpop.com/</u>
- BrainPOP Jr.: <u>https://jr.brainpop.com/</u>
- Google Classroom: <u>https://classroom.google.com/</u>
- NewsELA: <u>https://newsela.com/</u>



#### **ONLINE LEARNING TIP**

# **Dedicate a space!**

It is very important for students to have a dedicated space for online-learning. Unlike just sitting at their desks during their regular studies or even light reading, online learning requires more direct and purposeful attention.

In order to minimize distractions and other unintended interruptions, it makes sense to dedicate a special place for students to regularly use for online-schooling purpose!

Make sure to clear the area of clutter as much as you can and have a wall or non-window area as a background. This helps to avoid some lighting issues that may help the teacher see the student with clarity.

Remember!

Best way to learn online – is to be online!

#### SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING

# **Self-Care Tips for NWS Community**

#### **BY: MRS. CACI**

The return to school this year will be very different from year's past. And if your child is starting new to school in September, their experience will be very different than in "typical" school years. We are all starting this school year with some degree of uncertainty and anxiety, and it is important to understand that it is okay for you and your children to be nervous about what lies ahead for the 2020-21 school year.

However, it is also important to remember that children are resilient, and with the support of calm and caring adults around them, they will be able to navigate our novel experiences as we navigate the school year.

Children look to adults for guidance and support, particularly when they are uncertain or uncomfortable. It is important to model a calm demeanor when talking to your child about starting school in September, whether your child is attending a hybrid model or a virtual model of instruction. Children respond best to routine and structure, so it will be beneficial to establish a routine for their school day, whether they come to school or are learning from home. Practicing the NWS expectations at home – Be Responsible, Respectful, Ready, and Safe – will help reinforce appropriate behavior both at home and school.

It is important to have conversations with your children about our new requirements of social distancing and mask wearing, as these requirements are very different from what we are all used to. Explaining calmly and matter-of-factly to your child the importance of following these guidelines will keep everyone safe (one of the NWS expectations!) Younger children may respond to mask wearing in a more positive manner if kids are reminded that masks are part of a superhero's uniform

(https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/13/well/family/coronavirus-children-masks-fear.html).

Practicing coping skills is also important to help children know that even though they may feel overwhelmed with their current school situation, or they miss their friends or are frustrated with their school work, that there are ways to control these emotions and feel better. Deep breathing is a very effective means of calming the nervous system and managing emotions. Modeling how your child can use deep breaths (3 seconds breathing in, 3 seconds breathing out) will help them learn to use this strategy when they feel overwhelmed or upset. The use of sensory tool such as play doh, clay, kinetic sand, and flip sequin items (pillows, disks) may also help children manage their feelings.

While what lies ahead of us is uncertain, as adults we can help children feel more secure by being supportive, answering questions in a developmentally appropriate way, and focusing on the positive. Engaging kids in projects or activities that benefit others will keep them busy in a meaningful way and make them feel good that they are helping others.

If you have questions or need help, please feel free to reach out to me at kcaci@necsd.net.



# IT IS IMPORTANT TO TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF!



We wish that we can all meet in person – but we still look forward to seeing all of you online!

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