

Remote Academy Update – 10/04/2020

Remote Academy families,

Thank you to those families who were able to join our forum on Thursday, October 1st. We hope it gave you an idea of what's happening at school and that we addressed some of your questions. If you were not able to come, you can view the presentation [here](#). Eva and I will start a Q&A document that we will share with you in addition to providing a directory of who to contact with questions in different areas. We understand the urgency you feel to have many of these issues addressed and we continue to work hard to get the school set up and running smoothly while addressing the pressing issues that inevitably arise. We appreciate your patience and invite you to contact us if there is something that is urgent.

Here are some of the questions and answers from last night:

- The music curriculum from Mr. Pappazisis: Musician of the Month. <https://musicianoftheproject.com/>
- In terms of reaching out to teachers, would it be good to wait a few weeks? *Teachers are very busy but you are welcome to send them an email if you have questions.*
- Will there be an FAQ developed for parents so that we know who to go to for various issues (technology, materials, etc.)? *Yes, we are working on that as well and hope to have it out shortly.*
- Is the mandate of the Remote Academy really to learn on a screen? Or is it to learn without going into a school building? *Our mandate is to educate our students in the Remote Academy and the platform that we have is students connecting with their teachers via a device. There will be times when students will work independently off screen and there are screen breaks throughout the day.*
- Are students going to get their own email accounts? *There are safety and privacy concerns with students having their own accounts. Dr. MacNeal is working on another option and will you know about it asap.*
- For pick-ups, are there some other options besides smack dab in the middle of the day for those of us who work? *We understand that it is challenging for families to do this during the work day and we have to distribute materials when we have staff available, which is during the school day. Is it possible to coordinate with neighbors or classmates to take turns with pick up? You might be able to work something out with your school's*

administrative assistant as well. Margaret Thomas will coordinate the distribution for students in our METCO program.

Remote Academy Directory

Please use [this form](#) to sign up to be in the remote academy directory. By filling out this form you are giving the school permission to share your information with other Remote Academy families. This is optional.

Materials Distribution

The Remote Academy has its first scheduled pick up this Wednesday from 11:30am-1:00pm. Your child's teacher will let you know if there is something you need to pick up, otherwise you do not have to attend.

- Families will pick up all materials from their brick and mortar school on Wednesdays from 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. There will be a tent or table located outside the school. When you arrive (remember to wear your mask), please will line up 6 feet apart and let the staff member know your child's name and teacher's name. The staff person will check off the student's name, pick-up the supplies, and give them to you to take home.
- If you miss a pick-up time, you will have to either wait until the next date, or work with the administrative assistant or teacher to find another time that works.
- Families in our METCO program will coordinate with Margaret Thomas to get classroom materials.

Robbins Library News

This past week, Eva and I met with librarians from the Robbins Library and are excited to work with them this year to support remote learning! We will include regular library highlights and activities in our newsletters. If you haven't already, you can apply for a library card and learn how to get books via contactless pick up [here](#) and learn about all of the children's services [here](#). They have read alouds, fun craft activities, e-books, and much more.

Administrative Assistant

Laura Hegarty is our new Administrative Assistant. If you need to contact her, please email lhgart@arlington.k12.ma.us.

All our best,
Eva and Sam