



University Liggett School

Dear Lower School families,

I hope this letter finds you safe and well. Like all of you, I have been filled with a range of emotions over these last few weeks and am trying my best to positively embrace the changes and challenges ahead. I am extremely grateful to our faculty and administrative team who have been busy during our break planning, sharing and educating themselves so that your child's learning continues. We have been hard at work preparing for our virtual return to school. I look forward to reconnecting with all of you next week and can't wait to see the faces of the children pop up on my computer. As our "spring break" winds down I wish to share with you the information you will need as we begin remote learning next week.

Remote Learning Delivery

As Mr. Bronk mentioned in his [letter](#) last week, lower school teachers will be using several different tools to deliver instruction and support learning. All students will need a device for remote learning. Please let me know as soon as possible if you will need to use a school iPad.

Zoom - Zoom will be the primary video conferencing tool for face-to-face connections between teachers and students. The Zoom app is free and should be downloaded onto the device your child is going to use prior to Tuesday. You can [click here to download the app](#) and take a tour of Zoom. If you have difficulty, [please visit this resource page](#) to find answers to common questions. Students in fourth and fifth grade should "log in with Google" and use their uls.net accounts while students in other grades can use a parent's email to log in. In the Announcement Section of Seesaw you will soon see a saved link for a unique class meeting ID. If your child copies and pastes the link into the browser bar of his/her device all that is needed to enter a meeting is to click the link at the meeting time. To begin with, you can expect your child to have a set time for a morning class meeting each day and some time for resource class meetings throughout the week. As we all become more comfortable using this new tool I anticipate its use being increased at some grade levels.

Seesaw - Seesaw will be used for content delivery, assignment postings, and teacher feedback. This allows families to create an academic schedule that can be tailored to the needs of their family. You will need to download the Seesaw Class app which is different from the Seesaw Home app we currently use. Expect to receive an email early next week from your child's teacher with a homecode for each child and instructions on how to import that code.

Other channels - Students in fourth and fifth grade may be using Google Classroom as well. In addition, teachers are planning on sharing curricular activities through video, links and apps for students and families to do when time allows. Students in PreK will be provided with links and suggestions for Reggio-inspired activities and ideas for home play. We realize most of you are now working from home so we hope to provide materials for remote learning that include both flexibility and structure.

Technology Support - If you have difficulty downloading the Zoom or Seesaw Class app, connectivity issues or any other technology questions please email Mike Medvinsky at mmedvinsky@uls.org.

Materials - Available for Pick-up on Thursday, March 26 (see times below)

Academic materials and instruments for students in grades K-5 have been assembled. Materials will be bagged, labeled and placed under the canopy by the pickup line. If your child will need to borrow a device from school please let me know as soon as possible. Families are invited to pick up materials for LS this **Thursday, March 26.**

To ensure adequate social distancing, pick up times have been arranged by the first letter of your last name:

Pick UpTime	Last Name	Pick Up Time	Last Name	Pick Up Time	Last Name
9:00-10:00	A, B,C	12:00-1:00	J,K,L	3:00-4:00	S,T,U,V
10:00-11:00	D,E,F	1:00-2:00	M,N,O	4:00-5:00	W,X,Y,Z
11:00-12:00	G,H,I	2:00-3:00	P,O,R		

I ask that you grab materials quickly and maintain social distancing protocols. Please know that the school has communicated proactively with local authorities and they support this distribution plan.

Schedule

Monday, March 30th will be used as a full day of training for teachers. Tuesday, March 31st will be used for reconnecting teachers and classmates through Zoom and assuring that everyone is able to get online. During our Monday training, your child’s teacher will create a Seesaw Announcement with a link for Tuesday’s class meeting. Wednesday, April 1st we will officially jump into remote learning with the hope that we will be back on campus before the year’s end.

With anything new, there will be high and lows, success and challenges, and growing pains for all of us. Let’s keep in mind that everyone is trying their best, patience will be needed, and communication will be important. Please reach out to any teacher or administrator for help or answers to questions you may have.

Cancellation of LS Events

- LSPA meeting on April 6th (will be scheduled virtually for a later date)
- Math Night on April 8th
- Fourth Grade field trip to Lansing April 9th
- April Scholastic Book Fair

I will continue to update you about calendar events in my weekly newsletter.

Tips and Suggestions

We all know most children do better with set routines and realistic expectations. With so much unknown this is especially true right now. I found this article worthy of sharing:

<https://www.upworthy.com/tips-for-parents-coronavirus>

From past experiences at Liggett I know we will come out of this stronger as a school community. Time and time again I have seen this community step up to help one another in

times of need and this is no different. I know we will support one another with love and patience and will celebrate when we can truly be together again.

Until then, find and celebrate the little joys surrounding you and stay well,
Peggy