

Friends,

Well, day one of our Distance Learning is behind us and I can safely say that it was of my most memorable days in education I've had in my career. It was engaging, at times frustrating, often less than perfect, but in other words, it felt like school! I can't tell you how proud I am of our students and their teachers, as everyone worked together to get us going in the right direction. In some ways, it felt like the first day of school and all of the newness that comes with it. As the days go on, we will continue to keep you posted so that we can keep track of student progress and to have our lines of communication open with our families. Thank you for partnering with us on this journey, we know it is a difficult time for all.

A few tips for parents as we begin this work. Please be sure you establish a good work space for your child where you are able to give them the necessary room to complete the tasks at hand while keeping an eye on their progress. And, while we completely understand the temptation while working in a home environment, distractions such as pets, toys or games can interfere with the precious teaching time that we are currently trying to facilitate. Remember that, in addition to learning, a significant part of this effort is the need to maintain routine, predictability and as much normalcy as possible for all of our students.

Please note that your child's homeroom teachers will be reaching out to you this week to check in on student progress, and we will also be putting together a parent survey by the middle of this week. If you have any feedback or things that you would like to share to make this experience better for your child, please feel free to comment. Early Childhood parents, we are looking forward to welcoming all of you tomorrow!

A reminder to all parents in Early Childhood-8th grade that assignments, resources and Distance Learning Plans can all be found on our [Parent Portal](#). Please note there are new links within the current Homework Assignments Tab to include Early Childhood and Specialist classes. There you will find instruction, resources and overviews of what to expect for the next few weeks.

Remember that as COVID-19 spreads through the immediate region, it is critical that all families follow the necessary social distancing protocols. Including but not limited to thorough hand-washing, maintaining six feet between another person, avoiding social gatherings such as play dates and staying inside if you are sick.

Finally, I would be remiss if I did not give a special acknowledgement to Zara (4th Grade) and Yusef (5th Grade) Mir who officially had their first day at The Bridges Academy today! A very interesting day it must have been!

Enjoy the rest of your evening and our teachers look forward to seeing you and your children soon.

Steve

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Stephen E. Rubenacker
Head of School

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