

Notes from Friday, December 6, 2017

General/Celebrations:

- Amy Lassiter is back in 3rd grade, welcome back!!
- Lower School concert excitement for tomorrow night!

ECS asks to Grade level Reps:

- Home Access Center grade representative pilot
 - Grade representatives will gain access to Home Access Center for one subject area and attendance
 - They will provide feedback about parent use and ease of access
 - We will work together to determine the timeline for additional access

Questions and Answers

Q: What is the homework and work load expectation in fourth grade? How can parents make sure they are keeping up with daily and weekly homework?

A: In general, our guideline for homework in fourth grade is 40 minutes a night. Currently, there is homework each week in both literacy and in math. For literacy, students receive either grammar or vocabulary homework each night and have a set of book club questions and reading to do for the entire week. For math, students are given one worksheet on Monday to complete for Friday. Teachers give students enough time in class to work on projects and other classwork. There is very little that a student would have to do for classwork at home. If, for some reason, students are not finishing their classwork during class, they may be asked to complete it at home so they can keep up with a specific project's timeline. The timelines for projects are given to students at the beginning of each unit. If you have questions about your student's completion of homework, please reach out to the teacher/team that assigned the homework.

Q: 5th grade parents want to know how students are supported if/when they are above grade level or needing enrichment as well as students who are needing additional support? Is there an additional lesson for students who are struggling?

A: Students receive individualized instruction during PRIME Time each day. This is a time when students are grouped according to ability level and receive instruction to either support or enrich their thinking. In addition, students who need support receive small group instruction each day within their individual classes. In math, all students participate in the lesson for the day and then have problems to practice. During the practice time, teachers pull smaller groups of students that are struggling to provide them additional time and support. Teachers are also working with our gifted educator to provide enrichment opportunities for students that need enrichment based on benchmark data.

Q: How will a parent be able to transport to 3 different buildings after expansion? Especially if they live in a district that doesn't bus?

A: Our expansion conversations involve looking into all aspects of a student's day. Transportation is one of the areas that we will focus on during this work. We have begun the next phase in expansion, the engagement phase, and are looking for your input. If you are interested, please join us Wednesday, January 10th from 6:30-7:30 in the Upper School Cafe to discuss the connections between the buildings.

Q: How can we get chess back? Is someone looking into getting chess back at ECS for clubs?

A: The Chess organization ECS contracted with in the past had a teacher that was able to do after school clubs. He has since retired. Now the organization only offers lunchtime programming. ECS discussed internally and with the chess organization at length on how to make this work, but could not come up with a solution at this time. Our lunch, recess and activity model along with building at full capacity, does not align with the Chess Organization requirements for the lunch time programming. We have looked for other providers with no success.

Q: Can we share with parents what is happening in ME time?

A: PRIME TIME stands for Personalized and Reflective Investment in My Excellence. ME Time is My Excellence. During this time each day, students receive small group instruction or enrichment based on their specific academic needs in the areas of reading and math. Please reach out directly to your child's teacher if you would like to know what specific skill(s) your student is working on during this time.