

Summit Middle School Newsletter

December 2020

Message from the Principal

Dear Summit Families:

The month of December begins with a new learning platform in place for our students who previously participated in in-person learning—100% online learning. On a very positive note, we have some great news to report: our average attendance since the beginning of online learning (November 19) for these students has been 94.76% present. This is essentially the same average daily attendance that we experience when students are attending classes in-person. Despite the fact that we all get tired of Zoom meetings, this live version of instruction has engaged students.

Of course, many of our Digital Dragons (online students) have been engaged in 100% online learning since the beginning of the school year. As described in an earlier email, we are adding 60 minutes of live instruction via Zoom for these students in the four core areas: math, language arts, science, and social studies. This will take a monumental effort by our online content area teachers who are responsible for multiple grade levels. That said, we have prioritized this effort as we further adjust our instruction based on student needs. This live instruction is optional for online learners.

During this online period of instruction for all students, we ask that parents continue to inform the Summit office staff when students are required to quarantine due to exposure to a positive case of Covid-19 or testing positive for Covid-19. This will allow us to track numbers and make good decisions about learning plans. Thank you for helping us help your students by staying aware of this important data.

Finally, I encourage you to attend our Summit PTO meetings. We meet via Zoom and spend a portion of our time in a Q&A with the principal. This allows us to discuss important issues to Summit and share ideas. Our next, meeting is December 1 at 7 PM. The Zoom link follows:

<https://zoom.us/j/96151829562>.

Counselor Corner

The November Counselor Lesson focused on disappointments and expectations regarding COVID-19. The lesson explored disappointment and how it is connected to expectations. A great article with ideas for teens is: <https://kcls.org/blogs/post/how-teens-can-help-during-covid-19/>

This article has a list of things teens can do to help during COVID-19 including assisting medical research by playing a game to solve COVID-19 protein puzzles.



Interested in FREE, tutoring assistance?

The Johnston Public Library has purchased access to Brainfuse as a resource. Students can get live virtual tutoring help for free between the hours of 2 pm – 11 pm everyday. They also have an option to choose a Spanish speaking tutor. This is a free resource and users don't need to create an account (unless they want to track their usage/progress) or even have a library card. They just need the link! The site also has some additional resources besides the live tutoring.

https://www.brainfuse.com/highed/helpNow.asp?a_id=2BFF7252&ss=&r=

ParentTeen Connect is a free support/information resource for families through the non-profit Committee for Children. ParentTeen Connect seeks to normalize the challenges that come with raising teens and offers research based, expert advice on real-life issues.

<https://www.parentteenconnect.org>



Summit Health Office

6th grade parents, If your 6th grade student has not had the Tdap and Meningitis vaccines, please consider scheduling this while students are working online. Both of these vaccines are required by the first day of 7th grade.

Below is a quarantine calculator that is helpful for families if the need arises.



quarantine-calculator.pdf

[Download](#)
2.5 MB

Summit Library is OPEN!

Do you need a good book to read? You can still check out library books from the Summit Library even if we are 100% online! Visit the [Summit Library website](#) to access the card catalog to place holds on books. There is also a video on the website that explains how to place holds and how the pick up works. Please e-mail Mrs. McAlister if you have any questions.

Book donations – Our library welcomes book donations! Some we will put into our library collection. Others we use as prizes or giveaways to kids that need books at home. If you are doing some house organizing this month, keep us in mind for any books you find and do not have a need for any more.

Mock Trial

Important Dates to Remember

December 2nd

Online Learning Dismissal at 11:50

December 9th

Online Learning Dismissal at 11:50

December 16th

Online Learning Dismissal at 11:50

December 23rd

Online Learning Dismissal at 11:50

December 24 - January 1

No School - Winter Break



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