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J. Warren Killam School

A T.R.R.F.C.C. Place to Be!

September 2, 2020

Dear Killam Families,

The staff and I are excited to welcome you back to another school year. We have been meeting together, getting our classrooms up and running, and training on our equity work and remote learning plan since this past Monday. We are thrilled to be working collaboratively as we prepare for the start of school on September 15th!

Today, you will receive a separate email with your child's classroom teacher, homeroom number, and cohort assignment. Although, with the exception of Kindergarten and a select group of students, we are all remote to start the year, we still will be following the cohort A/B schedule for our specialists and classroom rotations. This will be happening in the background and will not impact your child's learning- in fact, you will not even be aware of which cohort week we are on, but we think it's important that you know the cohort now so when we do transition into the hybrid model, you'll be prepared.

As previously mentioned, although our original hope was to keep our student cohorts from last year together, we were unable to do so. We are a building of 420+ students, and we received 377 sibling requests that impacted the Killam placement directly. These sibling requests spanned students who are only at Killam to families who have a Killam student as well as middle schoolers and high schoolers. Due to this number and our commitment to supporting our family requests, we were unable to honor the learning pod requests; if they happened, it was by chance. We did also factor in previous experiences, special education needs, the physical class sizes that could fit in our spaces, and tried to keep together a few familiar faces for our students in each room, as much as possible. As you can imagine, placement was a herculean task and I wish to thank the entire Killam staff who worked on this to provide as balanced a classroom we could with our parameters.

When you receive your placement, here are a few pieces to keep in mind. We are human and there may be a few errors as we sorted through the data so if you notice a sibling cohort error, please reach out to me. *Beyond that, I am unable to make student placement changes. Additionally, if you are a family who has chosen to be remote this year, you will receive a separate email by Friday verifying your remote status. If you do not hear from us by Friday and you believe that you should have, please contact our administrative assistant Jackie Maglio at Jaculen.maglio@reading.k12.ma.us.* Thanks for your understanding and patience.

I have also received multiple emails asking about what remote learning will look like as we begin the year. Here is what you can expect.

- Remote Learning Schedule:** You will receive a letter from your child’s teacher on *Friday, September 11th* providing you with a schedule for the week of the 15th and the week beginning September 21st until we transition to hybrid learning.
 - Our goal is to mirror the school day as much as possible, providing consistency in routine, learning expectations and time on learning so that your child becomes comfortable with attending school for a full day.
 - We will build in screen time breaks throughout the day, including lunch and recess.
 - You can expect your child to be logged in for the following duration:

Grades 1-5

<i>Monday-Friday, 8:15-8:30am</i>	morning work, log-in time (dressed and eaten)
<i>Monday-Thursday, 8:30-2:45</i>	Morning meeting/attendance and classes, with a mix of asynchronous and synchronous times, following a classroom schedule. A specific schedule will come from the teacher on Friday, September 11 th
<i>Friday, 8:30-11</i>	Morning meeting/attendance and classes, with a mix of asynchronous and synchronous times, following a classroom schedule. A specific schedule will come from the teacher on Friday, September 11 th

Kindergarten Remote (Half-day remote session AM/PM)

<i>AM Session</i>	Monday-Friday, 8:15-11:30 Switch to PM session on Tuesday, January 19, 2021
<i>PM Session</i>	Monday-Thursday, 12:30-2:45 (no Friday) Switch to AM session on Tuesday, January 19, 2021

- The weeks of August 31st and September 6th:**
 - Be on the lookout for notes for your child from the Killam staff!
- The week of September 15th:**
 - Kindergarten students: screening and orientation (no remote learning)—schedule forthcoming
 - Grades 1-5 students: orientation and remote learning *when your class is not attending in-person orientation* – schedule forthcoming
- The week of September 21st:**
 - Kindergarten begins in-person learning. Kindergarteners learning remote begin remote learning.
 - Grades 1-5 begin remote learning.

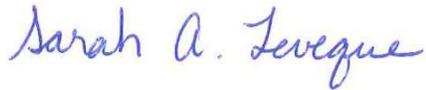
- **Classroom Specific Remote Learning Schedule:**

-You will receive a letter from your child's teacher on *Friday, September 11th* providing you with a schedule for the week of the 15th and the week beginning September 21st until we transition to hybrid learning.

- **Hybrid Schedule:**

-We will be re-evaluating our ability to move to the hybrid schedule by the end of October. As we move towards it, I will share specific information about how the hybrid model will look at the Killam School.

Thank you,



Sarah Leveque, Principal
J.W. Killam Elementary School