



OSPREY NEWS

JANUARY 10, 2020

Dear MBS Families,

We had a great first week back from vacation! Students are getting back into the routines of school and we have been able to enjoy the snow outside!

We are so grateful for all of the days of in person school we have been able to hold this school year. We are planning to continue with four days of in person instruction in grades preschool - 5th grade. However, both our preschool and grades 3-5 teachers have made contingency plans in the event that a classroom, grade level, or even the entire school would need to close for a short period of time (less than 2 weeks). This is also known as "intermittent closure."

We thought it would be helpful for families to know that in the event of an intermittent closure, we would provide you with detailed information via school messenger. Also, your child's teacher would hold a virtual Morning Meeting (or Circle time in preschool) at 9:00 am (12:00 pm for afternoon preschool students) to review the day ahead. Additionally, teachers have provided grades 3-5 students with "just in case" paper packets of work for the first day of intermittent closure. Preschool students have "just in case" remote learning bags.

In the event of an intermittent closure, we are also hoping and planning to offer more synchronous (live, real time) instruction during an than we did last spring, but the nature of each intermittent closure will likely be different. If the intermittent closure needs to extend longer than a day, grades 3-5 teachers would have assignments ready in Google Classroom at 8:30 each morning and preschool teachers would email assignments to families daily.

Finally, as a reminder, we are not able to provide students with instruction if they are missing school due to quarantine, illness, or travel. If your child is not able to attend school we will follow our absence procedures in our handbook. This means that if you contact the MBS office, we can provide your child with any work that they may have missed.

If you have any questions regarding intermittent closure our absence procedures please feel free to reach out to me at jordan.burke@colchestersd.org. We appreciate everything families are doing to support our COVID safety protocols this year - it is helping to keep our doors open!

.Respectfully,

Ms. Burke

Upcoming Dates

January 14th: PTA Meeting @ 6:00 pm
(zoom link sent day of via school messenger)

January 15th: End of Second Quarter

January 18th: MLK Day, No School

PRESCHOOL

The December issue of Natural Resources examined the importance of asking open ended questions to preschoolers. To subscribe or get more information, please contact Camille Catlett at camille.catlett@unc.edu. The following is an excerpt from the publication.

Nurturing a Child's Curiosity

New research shows that the more curious children are, the better they do academically in reading and math once they enter school. Touching something interesting, asking a question, leaning in to look closely, and repeating an action again and again to see what happens are ways we use our curiosity to discover how the world works. Check out [this website](#) to learn how questions and other strategies can promote curiosity in infants and toddlers.

Using Open Ended Questions with Children

This website summarizes the benefits of asking open-ended questions, then provides an awesome tutorial on how to use open-ended questions in a variety of applications (e.g., to challenge thinking, to explore books). Along with tips from experts, you'll find lots of examples [HERE](#).

Benefits of Asking Young Children Open Ended Questions

Through the use of language and open-ended questioning, adults are able to expand young children's curiosity and ability to reason, creativity, thinking ability and independence. Learn more [HERE](#).

Gain Language Skills and Learn About STEM Through Storybook Conversations

Reading a book with a child can be a great way to use open-ended questions to support many kinds of learning. Check out a great guide for using dialogic reading practices to do just that with Eric Carle's The Very Hungry Caterpillar. You'll even find a [link](#) to a video of a parent reading that book to her toddler and more. NOTE: This is one of the many great new resources on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) learning for young children with and without disabilities on the STEMIE [website](#).

Using Questions to Guide Hands-On Exploration

This video shows educators guiding children in hands-on explorations. Though their environments differ, the educators use the same strategies to encourage children to think, predict, describe, and explain using the language of science. Visit [this site](#) to discover the video and related resources.

GUMDROP With a Message About Questions

I call short, engaging [videos](#) that pack a content punch "gumdrops." This gumdrop highlights the things that young children are expecting of us including the request that we ask more engaging and thought-provoking questions than "what color is a banana?"