

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Let me begin by saying how much I miss all of my students. My number one concern is the health and well being of my students and their families. I will be honest with all of you, I feel like a first year teacher again. I am using technology I have never used before and I will be teaching in a way that is completely out of my comfort zone. I may make some mistakes along the way, your child may make some mistakes along the way, but we will get through this together.

That being said, school is back in session starting Friday! For the first week, assignments will be short and sweet. The purpose is to ease students into this new way of learning. I want to make sure that students know how to complete work, submit work, and have the opportunity to ask any questions they need to before we jump back into our curriculum. If at any point you or your child has a question, please do not hesitate to email me at krista.oneill@wcsdny.org I will be checking my email throughout the school day. I will also have office hours from 12:00-1:00 everyday. During this time I will make sure to be by my computer so we can have a back and forth conversation via email about any concerns you may have.

I understand that many of you are working from home, have several children to help, may know someone or be suffering from COVID-19, or just be overwhelmed with everything that is going on. I know I will be attempting to do all of this with a teething 18 month old attached to my hip and a husband who still has to go into work most days of the week, so we will get through this together. Please DO NOT stress over the school work. I know stress is high right now due to the circumstances and I do not want to increase stress on your families, but I do want to provide school work to keep moving students' minds forward during this time. I am aware that you are the ones there with them right now and if you need to adjust or modify any assignment, just contact me and we can work something out.

So what will distance learning look like in my classes? Like I said before, the first few lessons will really be just making sure students are able to complete and submit assignments using Google Classroom. From there students will be expected to continue

their independent reading, follow mini-lessons on Google Docs or Google Slides to learn about new skills or concepts, and complete assignments based on the lessons. My 8th grade students will be going into a Reading Non-Fiction Unit. My 7th grade students will be going into an Argumentative Writing Unit. By 12:00 tomorrow I will post the Google Classroom codes students will need to join the class on my district school website. From there, assignments will be posted weekly on my Google Classroom page. After the first week, assignments for the week will be due on Fridays and assignments for the following week will be posted on Fridays.

The next few weeks will not be easy. There will be mistakes, problems, and concerns along the way. I ask that you be patient with me and know that I am doing my best. Again, if you need anything at all, do not hesitate to contact me. I wish you and your family the very best.

Sincerely,
Krista O'Neill