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## Letter to Families in the Remote Academy

1 message

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**Kathleen Bodie** <kbodie@arlington.k12.ma.us>

Mon, Sep 21, 2020 at 6:55 PM

To: Bill Hayner <whayner@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Jane Morgan <jmorgan@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Jeff Thielman <jthielman@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Karen Fitzgerald <kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Karen Tassone <ktassone@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Kathleen Bodie <kbodie@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Kirsi Allison-Ampe <kallisonampe@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Len Kardon <lkardon@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Liz Exton <lexton@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Paul Schlichtman <pschlichtman@arlington.k12.ma.us>

**September 21, 2020**

**Dear Remote Academy Families,**

Welcome to our new Remote Academy school and the new school year! It is certainly a different start to the school year than you or your child may have experienced in past years.. We are excited by the opportunities and challenges that lay before us. We appreciate your partnership and support in having a successful learning year for your child.

Two of our elementary school assistant principals are leading the coordination of the Remote Academy Program. You can expect regular communication from them. The coordinators are Samantha Karustis, Assistant Principal at Dallin Elementary School, and Eva Liner, Assistant Principal at Bishop Elementary School. They have been working very hard over the last few weeks to set up the structure of the program, organize class lists, and work with the teachers and staff, who volunteered to be part of the program, to prepare for the opening of school.

Because this is the first time the Arlington Public Schools has designed an all-remote program, there are going to be bumps along the way. One problem that we apologize about is having to change some teacher assignments after they had been sent out. The changes were necessary in order to better balance classes and to be able to better provide special education support for students. In hindsight, we probably should have waited a few more days to send out class assignments. Should you have any questions or concerns, Ms. Karustis and Ms. Liner's contact information is below.

Our incredible teachers have been working hard as well to prepare for teaching in a virtual environment, They have participated in professional development to learn about best practices for engaging children in high-quality virtual instruction and learning. Many of them reported today that children were eager to be in their classes and the day went very well!

In these first couple of weeks, we will continue working hard to create the procedures, routines and organization that will support us all this year. This letter outlines information you will need for the first week. You will receive later this week additional information that outlines who to talk to about such issues as attendance, curriculum and home school connections.

We appreciate your patience as we continue to develop Remote Academy school structures and protocols. In the meantime, please know that you are always welcome to reach out to your child's teacher with questions about the classroom and the Remote Academy administrators or the principal of your home school with other questions.

**Remote Academy Administrators**

**Eva Liner**

**Samantha Karustis**

**781-316-3792 x22015**

**781-316-3730 x23003**

**Schedule**

Remote Academy follows the same start and end time as the other 7 elementary schools. The school day runs from 8:10-2:30. Wednesdays are an early release day and students will wrap up their school day at 1:00 p.m.

### **Attendance**

Attendance will be taken at 8:15 and then again after lunch. In the morning, your student should be dressed, settled into their learning spot, logged-in and ready to start their day. Students are expected to attend their online class just like they would their brick and mortar class and attendance will be noted throughout the school day.

If your student will be absent, tardy, or dismissed early (for a doctor's appointment, for example), you must contact your home-school's administrative assistant AND your child's teacher to let them know.

### **Instruction**

By now, you will have received your child's Google Classroom information and schedule for the week. There will be "live" time that includes instruction, small group work, time to answer individual questions, etc. Please be aware that your child may be doing classwork and not interacting with the teacher on screen. There also will be some asynchronous learning during the day that will be outlined in your student's Google Classroom. If you have questions, we encourage you to talk with the classroom teacher.

As you know, there will be times during the day that your child will not be on a device. We have scheduled short screen breaks throughout the day in addition to recess and lunch. Your child's teacher also will be taking a screen break at those times and will not be available to supervise or answer questions.

We understand that by joining our Remote Academy you are feeling pulled away from your home school. We are talking with teachers, administrators, PTOs, and parents about ways to develop the Remote Academy community while maintaining the strong connection that families have to their home schools. We encourage you to reach out with any ideas you may have to support the development of the Remote Academy community.. In the next couple of weeks, we will invite you to a parent forum to learn more about the Remote Academy school and for us to hear about the needs of families in our Remote Academy community.

We look forward to our work together this year. As we face the inevitable challenges, we will remain open, respectful and curious as we keep your child at the center of all that we do.

Respectfully,

Kathleen Bodie, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools

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Kathleen Bodie, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools  
[kbodie@arlington.k12.ma.us](mailto:kbodie@arlington.k12.ma.us)  
781-316-3501

When writing or responding, please be aware that the Massachusetts Secretary of State has determined that most e-mail is a public record and, therefore, may not be kept confidential.

If you need this document translated, please call your child's school principal - Si necesita este documento traducido, por favor comuníquese con la escuela de su hijo - Se você precisa este documento traduzido, entre em contato com a escola do seu filho - Si vous avez besoin de traduire ce document, s'il vous plaît contacter l'école de votre enfant - 如果你需要这份文件翻译, 请联系您的孩子的学校 - إذا كنت تحتاج /تحتاجين إلى ترجمة هذه الوثيقة إلى اللغة العربية يرجى الاتصال بمدرسة طفلك/طفلتك، -