



**BROOKLYN
FRIENDS
SCHOOL**

April 10, 2020

Dear Parents,

Virtual Family Center Phase-in continues. The important first steps were to connect through screens, to see each other in the only way we can for now. The children can see their teachers, hear their voices and interact together as much as a virtual Circle Time allows. It is also a reminder for all of us that we are not in the classroom, that we are not together in real time. But there is a connection. I see it in their smiles and hear it from the happy teachers. I see it in the children who need to watch first, not interact, think about what is happening. And then a little smile, and maybe they join in a little. And yes, some do walk away, or don't want to/aren't ready to be there. All this is "normal" in this new normal we are experiencing.

As a faculty, we meet regularly to share, support and plan the next steps in our virtual world. I am excited to share these next steps with you. Beginning next week, the whole class times will alternate with half-group sessions. This will allow for more conversational and interactive time with the children. We are also adjusting the length of time for each session as we have seen what works best.

Using videos allows us to share and extend connections between school and your child in another way. Teachers will be reading, singing, talking about activities. The Special teachers, Nancy, Tony and Mary, will be connecting through short videos to sing, or move as they did in school. These are sent for you to use when it works with your schedules, as often as you wish.

The teachers will email you tomorrow with the specific schedule of the week, the links to live meetings and a song video with their email. I will be sending you videos from Mary, Nancy and Tony.

This is a work in progress. We continue to meet, plan and add to our Virtual Family Center as we experience and learn what is best in a very new way to connect with your children. We recognize that our children don't sit and join a Zoom on their own - what we share with you will require an adult presence. And we understand that you will not be able to join in every time.

I welcome hearing if you have any questions or comments to share about your experience. I am thankful that our community continues our partnership to stay connected as best we can.

In Friendship and Gratitude,

Sara