



BROOKLYN FRIENDS SCHOOL

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS COMMUNICATION

- Additional Synchronous Learning Sessions
- Seesaw Update and Sunday Evening Outline
- Live End-of-Day Enrichment Classes and Community Gatherings
- Connect and Talk Opportunity with Crissy, Rachel, Katie and Jackie
- Remote Learning Resource Site and Tech Support for Lower School Families

April 17, 2020

Dear Lower School Families:

Additional Synchronous Learning Sessions:

In addition to the live morning meetings each classroom teacher hosts, **we will be adding age-appropriate (whole and/or small group) live learning opportunities for our students with their teachers during the school day, beginning, Monday, April 27.** As we optimize our use of Zoom and make the necessary adjustments, we will communicate these additional times before next weekend so that you can plan accordingly.

We are redesigning an entirely new school experience for our children, one that will allow for further meaningful experiences and opportunities within your homes. We are taking stock, learning much through this process and making adjustments to support children, families, and teachers as we continue to take into consideration the diverse and varying needs of our entire Lower School community.

I know you join me in thanking our teachers for the thoughtfully designed lessons/recordings and activities they have prepared for your child. We have invested time this past week to train our teachers in the use of Seesaw so that we can provide a platform for greater student/teacher communication. **We are excited to work with our colleagues to build in more synchronous learning opportunities.**

Seesaw Update and Sunday Evening Outline:

The children were off and running with the Specialist and Third and Fourth Grade Math activities on Seesaw this week! It was so wonderful to see our students' projects, listen to them sing, and watch them explain fractions. Classroom teachers will be adding their assignments to Seesaw next

week. This new platform will allow for a greater connection between the children and teachers, as teachers can see, acknowledge, and comment on student work appropriately.

We also understand that the transition to a new way of receiving and sharing remote learning activities will take some time. We appreciate all your patience and flexibility as we continue to partner together.

To clarify, the Specialist Teachers will continue to deliver learning content on Mondays and Wednesdays with the invitation that families do the activities at a time and pace that works for them; our suggestion is one-to-two per day. Assigned activities will be listed on the Seesaw app in chronological order, so if you miss an activity you can still retrieve it at any point - it would just be further back in the "feed".

You will continue to receive a morning email and template outlining the lessons and activities for the week. If an activity is posted on Seesaw, this will be indicated on the template. **This will be the last week that we will be sending the template to you in two installments (Monday and Wednesday) morning. Beginning the week of April 27, we will be able to send you the outline of the week on Sunday night.**

A note about Seesaw privacy: Videos or work that a student posts always goes into their private journal and teachers always have to approve the posts. Only the teachers and school administration can see the student's work. Please click on this link to read about how Seesaw keeps student data safe. [How does Seesaw help keep student data safe?](#)

Live End-of-Day Enrichment Classes and Community Gatherings:

It was wonderful to see so many K-4 friends at our 2:30 p.m. Storytime this past Tuesday and Thursday. **Next week**, we will be launching our afternoon **Live Enrichment Classes and Community Zoom Gatherings hosted by our Specialist Teachers.**

Every Tuesday and Thursday, a Specialist Teacher will offer a live enrichment class. Next week, please join **Woodworking Specialist, Thomas Keasling**, on Tuesday, April 21 at 2:30 p.m., for a **Monster Making Workshop**. On Thursday, April 23 at 2:30 p.m., **Dance Specialist, Helen Tocci**, will lead a **special Dance Workshop**. Both workshops are for children in grades K-4. We will send a reminder and invite next week.

Specialist Teachers will also host a regular choice/social time for K-4 children on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Each Monday, we will host a Kindergarten Choice Time. On Wednesdays, we will host a Choice Time for First and Second Graders. Friday is a "Lunch Bunch" gathering for Third and Fourth Grade children at 12:00 p.m. Children will bring their sketch pads, lego structures, knitting, (lunch)... to these optional social times. Teachers will facilitate conversation and children will have the opportunity to interact in a relaxed, Zoom-like way, with friends across the grade level.

The Schedule for April Community Zoom Enrichment Classes and Social Gatherings can be found here (please see your email for these Zoom links). While many of the Live Specialist classes will be for all Lower School children grades K-4, there could be a day that the Zoom is being offered for a smaller grade range. The calendar will indicate the activity, who is leading it, and the grades invited.

Connect and Talk:

Together, with Crissy Cáceres, Head of School, and Dr. Rachel Maldonado, Lower School Psychologist, **we are looking forward to hosting two Connect and Talk opportunities.**

Thursday, April, 23

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m. for Second, Third, and Fourth Grade Families

Friday, April 24

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. for Kindergarten and First Grade Families

From our parent survey earlier this month, as well as feedback and questions that you have shared, parents have expressed a desire to learn about how to set up routines; how to talk about death, grief, isolation; and all things pandemic. Parents have expressed a desire to learn and understand more about the school's plans for distance learning, and to share their experiences and gain support. We hope you will be able to join us. We plan to record this event for those that cannot attend.

Please [RSVP here](#) if you are planning to attend a Connect and Talk session and enter any additional questions you have that you hope will be addressed during this time.

If you cannot attend the Connect and Talk, but would still like to submit a question for us to consider as we continue to shape our virtual learning experience, please do so on the [RSVP form](#).

Remote Learning Resource Site for LS Families and Tech Support:

For families who require technical assistance, please email: parenttech@brooklynfriends.org.

[We have also created a Remote Learning Resource Site for Lower School Families.](#)

This site will house the calendar for the End-of-Day Enrichment offerings, a link to Tech support, as well as the tutorials and instructions for Zoom, Seesaw, and more. You can also connect to Virtual BFS from this site, as well.

In friendship,

Jacquelyn Condie, Head of Lower School
Katie Banks, Assistant Head of Lower School for Academics