



April 1, 2020

Dear Parents,

Yesterday afternoon Governor Pritzker announced that Illinois schools will be closed through April 30. We truly miss seeing our students at school, but at the same time we are committed to providing our families with a semblance of routine and engaged learning that is unique to Holtz. We appreciate your patience as we continue to refine our lessons and explore new technologies.

From speaking with all of you, we know that you may be feeling a little overwhelmed with this new way of learning and trying to juggle being a parent, working from home and other changes in your family routines. We are committed to communicating with our families and offering any assistance that we can.

Thank you to those parents who have reached out to us with questions. Listed below are some Answers to Questions that we have received thus far. Hopefully these answers will help clarify any questions you may have surrounding your child's schooling.

### **What should be completed every day?**

Teacher's have provided a daily schedule that provides a breakdown of activities. Please initial that you received the instructional materials for each area and your attempt to provide the instruction.

We do need your help to ensure that your child's daily attendance. These sheets are one way for us to keep track of this. Your teacher will be contacting you regarding what is the easiest way to document that your child is still participating in school.

We realize that everyone's circumstances are different and that what you are able to do with your child may vary depending on the day or time. You have complete flexibility regarding what time of day your child engages in learning opportunities as well as how long you spend on each activity. If you only have a limited amount of time, please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher to help prioritize activities and lessons.

**Will I have to administer the state standardized assessment this year from home?**

No. The Illinois State Board of Education has applied for and received a waiver to forego all state mandated assessments for Spring 2020.

**How long will we be out of school?**

At this time, we are hoping to return on May 1. We miss seeing your children and cannot wait until the stay-at-home order is lifted. As we continue to receive information from ISBE and Governor Pritzker regarding when we will be allowed to return to school we will let you know.

**What if I have an IEP meeting scheduled during the time of the school closure?**

Each meeting is being discussed individually as a team to determine if we will continue as planned or if we will need to reschedule it. If you have not heard from your teacher or a member of the administrative team regarding your child's upcoming meeting, please feel free to reach out with any questions.

As always, thank you for your commitment to Holtz and special thanks to all who have shared their gratitude for the efforts of our amazing teachers and staff. It is heartwarming to know their hard work is so appreciated. Please know that we will get through this together and that all of us here at Holtz are available to support you and are thinking about you and your family.

Sincerely,

Melinda and Beth

Contact us:

Melinda Pieniazek (ext 2002) and Beth Glass (ext 2004) will be receiving voicemails left at their direct extensions at the school number (630-541-6441) but not messages left at the main number/ operator. We will also be accessible via email. In addition, Melinda Pieniazek is accessible via Holtz's mobile number at 773-850-2221.