



# Old Farmers Road School

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## Helpful Tips, Week of Respect, Reminders

Hello At Home!

Hybrid learning is not easy on anyone. Balancing schedules, computer issues, extra measures of organization, sibling distractions at home, all come into play. We're all trying to make the most of the situation we find ourselves in right now. So, what can parents do to make sure their child gets the most out of the experience? Teachers have shared a few important tips with me, which will go a long way in helping your child.

### Tips for Getting the Most Out of Hybrid Learning at Home:

- Set aside a special home school workspace.
- It's always best to have folders and books organized per subject area for easy access.
- Students should wear headphones. This will help improve focus and concentration, cancel out background noises, and other distractions at home.
- Students need to come to meets at scheduled times, including their related arts class. Try not to be late! Important information is often discussed at the beginning of the meet.
- Cameras need to be on during the meets, so teachers know students are engaged, understand the lesson, and are in the room.
- Children should dress appropriately for learning and keep the camera on their face.
- Think... LOG ON, STAY ON, CAMERA ON.
- Students should be ready to respond to the teacher if she/he calls on you.
- Snack only when off line during down time and breaks. Not on a meet. Food and drink can be very distracting to your child and others in the class during lessons. Keep liquids away from the Chromebooks.
- Siblings should be kept to a distance from the learner for optimal learning to occur.
- Some students are logging on briefly during virtual days and then never returning. When students miss the lessons, they are missing work, and can fall behind the others in class.
- Be sure to return to meets after a break is given.
- Some students are letting teachers know of dental appointments, doctors' appointments etc. on our shared classroom communication stream instead of sending an email to



teachers and the office, letting everyone know. Whenever possible, schedule appointments during the "at home lunch/recess block" of time, after school hours, or on a day school is closed.

- If a virtual student isn't feeling well half way through a virtual day, your PM teachers still need your attendance accounted for with an email or some notification. Just not showing up isn't ok. Students who do not report to their afternoon meets, will be recorded as such. Don't forget about communicating with your related arts teachers too.
- Always log back into Social Studies or Science. These subjects are important too.
- Make sure you stay on top of your work and submit the assignments
- Remember the Google meet time is a shared setting, not the setting for a private communication. Parents should connect with the teacher through email or phone.
- It's important to pay attention and take the experience seriously every day.

Thank you for reading through these tips to get the most out of the At-Home piece of hybrid learning. It's not easy, but with perseverance and determination, we'll all make the most of the situation we're in.

## 10/5-10/9 Week of Respect Activities at OFRS:

**Theme: "Kindness is Sweet" (Sprinkle it Everywhere!) Mrs. Rojas**

During the month of October, students in all classes will experience a mini-lesson with a discussion of how we can spread kindness and also addressing how we can calm our worries ("DoNut Stress").

### Books Shared:

"Jelly Donut Difference", "A Little Spot of Anxiety"

### Bulletin Board Themes:

"Kindness is Sweet", "DoNut Worry"

Spirit Days: All students and teachers (all cohorts, virtual too!)

- Monday 10/5: **Team Kindness Day:** Wear your favorite sports gear
- Tuesday 10/6: **Comfy Being Kind Day:** Wear your most comfy loungewear or PJs
- Wednesday: 10/7: **Brighten Someone's Day:** Wear bright or rainbow colors
- Thursday: 10/8: **Yee-Haw for Kindness Day:** Wear your favorite Cowboy/girl or Western Wear!
- Friday: 10/9: **Crazy for Kindness Day:** Crazy Hair and Sock Day!



## Reminders:

**Morning car rider drop off time change:**

As of Thursday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, car rider drop off reverted back to our **8:45**

**AM** start. School begins at 8:55 AM.

### **Calendar Reminders:**

- No School: Monday, October 12<sup>th</sup> - Staff Professional Development Day ([see district calendar](#))



## Reminders from the Nurse, Mrs. Braithwaite:

- Notify the nurse if a family member, a friend, or a known contact is being tested for or has tested positive for COVID-19.
- If you return to N.J. after a visit to ["a high risk state"](#), your child(ren) must learn remotely for 14 calendar days before returning to school.
- In an effort to maintain wellness for all students, staff, and families, it is imperative that you report all absences, and need for virtual learning related to illness or health issues to the OFRS attendance line 908-876-3865 press 1.
- Parents are requested to call Nurse with illness and fever, even if remote learning.
- Daily adherence of the school district [COVID screening tool \(click here\)](#) will help maintain wellness for our school community.
- Contact our school nurse, Mrs. Braithwaite at (908) 876-3865 x4003 or [nbraithwaite@wtschools.org](mailto:nbraithwaite@wtschools.org) or visit [her website](#) with any questions.



## School Picture Reminder:

- B Cohort Wednesday, October 14<sup>th</sup>
- A Cohort Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup>
- D Cohort can come to school for their pictures on either 10/14 or 10/15. Specific "D" cohort times are available from your homeroom teacher or [click here](#). How is Lifetouch Photography handling the pictures during the time of COVID-19? [Click here for the Lifetouch video](#) explaining picture day safety procedures.



**Halloween Reminder:** We will hold two special "School Spirit Halloween Dress Up" days on Thursday 10/29 and Friday 10/30. Children may wear a *simple* costume to school those days, which can be worn all day long with ease. We know the kids and staff will have fun wearing their costume throughout the day. Unfortunately, during this time of COVID-19, there will be no parade, no class parent visitors.



## Mask Breaks/Outdoor Lunch Reminder:

Students and staff love their mask breaks outdoors! Everyone relishes the fresh air! As the weather cools, we will continue to take our breaks outside as long as we can. Wear a coat with a hood for days when it's lightly raining, so we can go outside for those mask free fresh air breaks. Dress for the weather.



Once again, thank you for reading through all of the information carefully. On behalf of all of us at OFRS, we thank you for your continued support!

Sincerely,

*Joseph Ciulla*

Principal

"Caring is Cool at OFRS"