

Lois P. Rockwell Elementary School

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Rockwell Register

Four Things to Know!

#1 Student Voice at Rockwell: What our students told us about online learning. Mr. Isabell and Mrs. Clark invited students from Kindergarten through Grade 5 to talk informally about their online learning experiences. We asked them the following questions. Here are some common themes.

What is working well/what do you like?

- Time to talk with friends and the teacher in Zoom lessons- for fun
- Starting class with games & fun activities
- Breakout rooms- it's easier to ask questions in a small group
- Breaks away from the computer
- Wednesdays- I can catch up and take a break!

What suggestions do you have?

- More break time
- More time to talk with our classmates
- Ask kids to keep cameras on
- Breaks on camera are not really breaks
- More small group time in breakout rooms

#2 Parent Voice at Rockwell: What our parents told us about online learning. We

invited parents of students in PEP through Grade 5 to offer their perspective to help us improve the online experience for students. We asked them the following questions.

What is working well for your child/what does he/she like?

- Breakout rooms with teachers or paras
- When we know all the materials and tools that students need before class starts
- Teachers and Paras are RockStars! They make learning fun as much as they can.
- I see my child making progress
- The routine and the schedule is consistent
- Teachers show so much patience and caring
- Informal sharing time for students and special events like spirit days/pajama days, etc.

What suggestions do you have for teachers/staff?

- Supervise breakout rooms more if possible
- Communicate about what my child will need for the class/day/week in advance
- How can we easily tell what is being taught in reading and math?
- Use a timer for breaks or independent work
- My child doesn't know how long 15 minutes lasts!
- The school needs to communicate more frequently
- How can we encourage reading books /novels? Can parents help with this?

#3 Teacher/Staff Voice at Rockwell: What teachers and staff told us about students/families and online learning

Staff met to discuss how students and parents were making the most of online learning (what is working) and what distractions or challenges they see with online learning.

What is helpful for students?

- Having an adult "set students up" for learning by having all materials at hand (All grade levels!)
- Having students work in a dedicated space away from distractions if at all possible. All microphones pick up all room noise!
- Using headphones with microphones to help with focus (if any student needs headphones,

- they should discuss this with their teacher)
- Showing up for all classes and for times put aside for individual and small group help (ask your child's teacher about these times)
- Keeping cameras on and engage with peers and adults when asked to do so

What suggestions do teachers have for parents/families?

- Communicate positive messages to students about online learning
- Check with students daily about their work that is due- did they turn assignments in as requested?
- Have students ready for learning at the published time on the schedule (wake up early enough to be fully dressed, eat before class, brush teeth, gather materials, and log in for class). Students are used to a written itinerary at school; parents can help students write these for the week.
- Allow students to do their own work- this helps teachers truly know their strengths and weaknesses.

#4 Rockwell's Parent Preference Survey for Students

The deadline for completing this survey was extended to December 7th by MCPS. The next step in the process of our planning for possible return is to analyze survey results and determine the model that will work for Rockwell based on the responses and the space and staffing available. The following points are important to note:

- We will move forward with our return plan only if [health metrics are met](#).
- Our planning also is dependent on staff availability and space. Staff members have been asked to submit their requests for leave or accommodations based on qualifying health concerns or dependent care needs. Staffing numbers will impact the way we provide instruction and could vary from school to school. For example, your child's teacher may qualify for an accommodation and may not return to the school building, but will continue to provide instruction virtually. If you opt for your child to return to learning in

the building it is possible that your child may not have that specific teacher in the building.

- On Friday, November 6, we shared that families who selected the in-person experience (which still will include virtual components) can change to the all-virtual model at home at any time. Families that selected the at-home all-virtual option only can change their selection based on availability and unique circumstances.
- The safety of our students and staff is our top priority. All students and staff who are in school buildings will be required to follow our COVID-19 safety protocols. This includes, but is not limited to, the use of face coverings, physical distancing of classroom desks, hand-washing and sanitizing, health screening protocols, and enhancements to Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning systems, where needed.
- Families can expect to receive more information about their school-specific plan and instructional model in January.
- Available seats on school buses will be limited in alignment with safety protocols and we may not be able to provide transportation for all families who request it.



Calendar

December 24-25 Schools and Offices Closed for Holiday
December 28-31 Non-instructional Days
No school for students / teaching staff
January 1 Schools and Offices Closed for Holiday
See you online for virtual school on January 4th!