

Dear Parents and Guardians,

09/02/2020

I am passionate about teaching students of all ages the joy of being active through various settings like the gym or outside. Without stating the obvious, another setting would be through remote learning from my office either at home or school to each student's home. Being active regardless of location is the most important for all humans and that is what I intend to do through virtual learning.

It is a learning curve for all of us involved and we will thrive through trial and error. Humans are resilient and that is why we will have success through virtual learning. Another aspect that some of us have to do is accommodating to ensure learning is convenient for those who are learning and teaching. In my case as a Deaf person, I am blessed to have technology that enables me to hear with a cochlear implant and a lifetime training of speech. However, it does not guarantee communication will be flawless through virtual learning.

While my goal is to maximize learning for our students and minimize communication challenges. I will be using two independent tools that will assist me in communicating with students and teachers through Zoom. The first tool is a videophone with a live interpreter. All I have to do is provide a dial number, meeting ID and passcode to the interpreter. The interpreter will connect to the Zoom meeting room and the interpreter will be able to hear our class while interpreting for me. The interpreter and the class will not see each other, instead the class may see a phone icon in one of the windows, so please be aware of it. Like all students' files, medical information and grades, there is a strict code of ethics that requires interpreter-client interaction to be confidential.

The second tool that I plan to utilize to assist me in virtual instruction is the Otter app. It is a real time captioning with amazing accuracy. I'll admit Otter is unlike other real time captioning apps I have ever seen! I will be using the Otter app as a back-up in case I cannot reach out to an interpreter or need it for immediate one on one meetings.

Again I look forward to an active school year through virtual learning and hopefully in person sometimes this year. If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to reach out to me through email or arrange a video conference meeting.

Be safe, be healthy and be active,

Chris Laskowski

Fry PE Teacher

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