



Colleagues-

You DID it! You successfully completed day two of the 2020/2021 academic year via 'virtual learning.' I had no doubt that teachers would make this happen-hats off to each of you! I am sure that students were smiling from ear to ear after seeing their teachers. They missed you over the last 5 months.

As with anything, there were a few glitches along the way, but nothing we can't address. Please continue to let us know what the hurdles are, and we will voice the concerns to the appropriate individuals. A few comments that were shared with the OEA on how the day went...

- Students helping students on TEAMS with audio and visual difficulties.
- As soon as the students faces started coming on the screen, I realized that they inspire me, and all the barriers came down. The joy on their faces was wonderful to see.
- Support from Parents.
- A Rockstar tech team helping staff.
- The smiling faces of students even though they looked very tired at the end of the day. (Too long of a day.)
- Students asking for a virtual lunch with their teacher.
- Students assisted the teacher on how to get the device to work properly.
- Day too long for the little ones.

Our students are **AMAZING** because of **YOU**, the educators! 😊

Daily Schedule questions

There has been a lot of discussion and questions asked around the daily schedule for the elementary grades and special education. I recommend that you [click here](#), to hear from OPS Staff who explain in detail what a day would look like for a student at various levels and in varying programs.

- Click the meeting for 8/17/2020 Part 1
- Start at 59:42 to begin hearing about the day in the life of an OPS student.

Face Shields

Through the partnership of the Omaha Public Schools Foundation (OPSF) and the OEA, we wanted to share the love to our certificated staff. The building's AR should have received a box of face shields containing one for each certificated staff. They have the sticker that says, "We PROTECT our TEACHERS! All 4,200 face shields were labeled and packaged by students of OPS and staff of the OPSF and OEA. We know you have masks but wanted to provide the face shields for the AMAZING educators. You MUST still wear your mask along with your face shield.

Social Media

Remember to be careful with what you post on social media during duty time. The district does have a policy on social media, that is policy 4040. [Click here](#) and go to page 314 if you need to reference it.

Be aware of guidelines

Just a reminder that we need to lead by example. Wear a mask, practice social distancing and monitor your surroundings. This means when you are in the building with multiple individuals, you must wear a mask. If you are with colleagues in the lounge, you must wear a mask. Social distancing on the weekends should be followed. While it is a personal choice, it can impact your ability to work safely.

Teacher "Buddy"

Building Administration will be asking staff to partner up with a fellow teacher to be co-owners of your TEAMS class. This will eliminate the need to share any sensitive login information with a sub if ever needed. This will allow your "buddy" teacher full access to just TEAMS. The district is currently working on a plan on how to use subs during remote learning.

Quarantined or on Leave...Now what?

If you are quarantined or on any other type of leave, you are NOT required to prepare, teach, participate or attend a meeting at your building during this time. The district must approve your return to work before you take part in any required work.

Reminder

If you are an AR or alternate and have not attended a training, please plan to attend one of the remaining dates.

- Saturday, August 22nd at 9:00 am to 10:30 am.
- Tuesday, August 25th at 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm.

An email with details was sent out on 8/14, so look for that email. If you wish to participate, please RSVP to Becca Dingwell at becca.dingwell@nsea.org.

Membership

We are stronger together! If you have a new teacher in your building, ask them

to join us in advocating to make public education the best it can be for students, staff and the community. OEA was not able to meet with them in person, so we are relying on members to reach out to make that final ask to join. [Click here](#) to access a membership form.

Final Thoughts

A survey will be coming out on Friday afternoon on how the virtual learning is going. It will be live until Tuesday, August 25th.

Remember, that practice makes better, perfection doesn't exist! No one is asking you to be perfect-- keep practicing! You've GOT this!

Breathe and Be Present,

Robert
OEA President

