



Shaw Middle School | ABLÉ Newsletter

Week of 5/18/20

Hello ABLÉ families,

I hope everyone was able to enjoy the weekend in some way or fashion. Hopefully, everyone found some outside time in between the rain bursts.

First off I want to remind everyone that Friday and Monday are non-school days. Please find time to relax and enjoy each other's company and have a great Memorial Day weekend. Mr. McCullough and myself will not be available during those days.

I really have to say that it was exciting and awesome to see new faces in our Class Zoom meetings, this week. Our attendance has double this week and it was so good to see the faces of students who had not been tuned in yet. We had some fun conversations about safety and kindness as well as some social time. It would be great to see all students participate at some level, even if just to say hello and then go about their day. Students are encouraged to participate as much as they will tolerate.

The stay home order has changed so many of our routines. Thank you again for creating new routines and working with us to continue education for your children. Hopefully things are becoming easier as students ease into the new routines. Please, remember we are here for you, do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns around work packets and schedules.

Have a great week Vikings!

Mr. McCullough and Mr. Olson.



Recap

- Watch for weekly activity plans and materials being delivered. Follow them to the best of your ability.
- Please inform us on what is working and what is not working, so we can continue to create meaningful activities for each student.
- Zoom meetings will be Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10:00am



Reminders

- **Safety** and health of you and your child are our first priority. All work provided to you is encouraged but not mandatory. For many students, work demands are quite a challenge and a trigger. Do what is best for you and your family and most importantly, be safe!
- If you need printed materials rather than having them emailed, Durham bus drivers can drop materials for your student at your residence. Talk with your child's teacher to set this up.



Tips for working with children with autism

- **Avoid sensory overload - It is very easy for students to get distracted. Keep your environment as free of distractions as possible.**
- **Use visuals when possible – Using visuals and modeling what you want your child to do often is more successful than a lengthy explanation. Keep things concrete and simple.**
- **Be predictable – Use a schedule to plan activities/work demands**
- **Use the Premack Principle – First “math” then “student choice of activity/free time”**
- **Familiarize yourself with token economy – Many students in our classes were successful completing work demands when they had a clear beginning and end. We often used tokens to deliver reinforcement for positive behaviors. When students earned 5 tokens during a work session the work session was done, and they exchanged their 5 tokens for a 10-15-minute free time activity. Tokens are also a good way to communicate non-verbally with the individual how close they are to being done with the task.**

Resources:

- [Conscious Discipline, COVID 19: Resources for Families and Educators](#)
- [Special Education Technology Center \(SETC\)](#)
- [Spokane Schools Sped services during COVID 19](#)
- [Do it yourself ABA based lessons for families](#)
- [Autism Speaks - How to handle closures for children with autism](#)
- [Autism Speaks \(info for families\)](#)
- [Token Economy Information](#)
- [Discrete Trial Training explanation and demo](#)

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