



# Shaw Middle School | ABLE Newsletter

## Week of 5/26/20

Hello ABLE families,

We hope everyone had a safe and relaxing 4-day weekend. With all that has happened over the past 2 months everyone deserved some down time. As we approach June we want to remind everyone that the last day of school is June 19<sup>th</sup>. We are almost through this difficult stretch and we want to thank everyone again for their hard work. It is absolutely a pleasure to be working with such a dedicated group of families and support systems. Within the next week or so please keep an eye out for information regarding picking up any items or materials that may have been left at Shaw during the closure. Our administration is setting up a schedule for families and students to come and pickup their items at Shaw. Familiar staff should be present and there to help if needed. Have an excellent week and reach out with any questions or celebrations you may have!

Mr. McCullough and Mr. Olson.



### Recap

- Watch for weekly activity plans and materials being delivered. Follow them to the best of your ability. Modify and change anything you wish to make it work for you and your child.
- 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](#)

## **Teacher Contacts:**

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