



Shaw Middle School | ABLE Newsletter

Week of 6/1/20

Hello ABLE families,

Welcome to June. It is hard to believe we are almost to the end of what turned out to be a crazy school year. These last few months have been trying as we all struggled together to figure out what school should look like for your children. Thank you to each and every one of you, as you took on new roles and routines in the home. Hopefully, in the fall, we can convene in the classroom, but in the meantime we are continuing to plan and prepare for all possibilities.

On Friday, a letter was sent home to outline the procedures for end of the year locker cleanout and return of personal items. I will also add it to the resources below for your reference. It appears that we have been assigned Monday the 8th for our 7th graders, and Monday the 15th for our 8th graders.

We are continuing to send work packets home for the next couple of weeks and communicate with you about progress.

As these last few weeks pass, please take the time to take a breath and pat yourselves on the back. This crisis has forced us all into roles that are outside our norms, and you took that in stride and did what you had to do for your children. YOU DID AMAZING! Remember that.

As always, please reach out with any questions, concerns or celebrations you may have.

Mr. McCullough and Mr. Olson.



Recap

- The next two Mondays are our days for locker cleanout. Please follow the procedures outlined so we can all practice appropriate social distancing.
- 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:

- [Locker Cleanout Information](#)
- [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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