



Shaw Middle School | ABLE Newsletter

Week of 6/15/20

Hello ABLE families,

Here we are heading into the final week of the 2019/20 school year, and what a school year it has been. During this time we have all had to adjust and make changes to the way we engage in school and life in general. Thank you to all you parents and guardians for making these adjustments alongside us and having patience while we all figured it out. It has been difficult but some positives have come out of it as well. Both Mr. McCullough and I have found and used new resources during distance learning that we can adapt and use in the classroom next year.

OSPI released recommendations for schools opening in the fall last week. With that in mind, hopefully we will be meeting in the classroom again in September. We will have to watch and see what Spokane Schools decides on how that will look.

We will not be sending out a weekly plan this week. Please use your discretion and pick activities from previous plans. If you do need more work activities please contact your student's teacher and we will send the resources that you need.

For this weeks Zoom meetings, we will only meet on Tuesday. We will not be presenting a lesson, but instead will have a party of sorts. Students are encouraged to bring a snack if they want (if we were in class we would have something special, but...). We are also going to give students opportunities to talk about their summer plans. If possible, please assist your student to be prepared to share with the class so that we can all be excited for each other.

This week we are working on progress reports. If you have IEP progress that you would like us to take into consideration please send it to us. Otherwise, we will defer to the data points that were collected in March, prior to the school closure.

As always if you have any questions or concerns, contact Mr. Olson or Mr. McCullough.

Thank you for sharing your students with us. We both are missing our students immensely and wish that we could have a more proper closure to the school year, especially with those who are moving on to high school. I hope that everyone has an amazing summer and hope to see you in the fall.

Thanks for everything you do!

Mr. McCullough and Mr. Olson





Recap

- Mondays is our day for locker cleanout. Please follow the procedures outlined so we can all practice appropriate social distancing.
- We will not be sending out weekly plans this week, pick fun educational activities from previous weeks. If you need resources, contact your student's teacher.
 - Please inform us on IEP progress to be included in progress reports.
 - Zoom meeting will be Tuesdays 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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