



8/26/2020

Dear Families,

Wow! Can you believe we have completed a whole week (and then some) of 6<sup>th</sup> grade virtual learning already? We spent a good deal of time just getting logged in and staying in Zoom. A bit of time was spent “getting to know you” with short introductions by students. They also should have completed a Google Survey for me with similar information for me to reference in the future to help me be the best teacher for them! We barely had a chance to get into classroom expectations/behaviors/routines. This will be a slow process as 55 minutes just doesn’t seem like a whole lot of time. Please ask your student to show you our Google Classroom under “Guiding principles” for a look at our [virtual classroom expectations](#).

We did try to do a little bit of work Thursday and Friday. We glanced at how to access their online textbooks (which I did put a set of instructions in the classroom) and even read the first chapter’s first lesson. I guided them through my expectation of “active reading” when it comes to our work in social studies. In the next few weeks, I will be expecting them to read on their own (mainly in class) but to do so with purpose and intent, not just skimming through to be done! I suggest a method of reading/notetaking called SQ3R to help with this process. You can view a bit of detail [here](#).

As you know, the process of transitioning to online learning was short. I am still working through how we operated in the building to how we’ll operate virtually. For example, our Zoom time will soon consist of a shorter “direct instruction” block (about 20 minutes) and increase your student’s independent work/exploration time (about 20 minutes). This may include the independent reading, related activities, Google Docs with other work, study time for quizzes and the like. Then we will regather for the last 10 minutes or so for questions and clarification as needed. Please continue to be patient as I try to get gradable material on ParentVue for you to see how your child is making progress.

My goal also is to be able to start some small group instruction utilizing Zoom’s ‘break out room’ feature. During this time, I will work with a particular group on a particular topic allowing the other students to complete independent work. I should be able to get to one group a day (that is the ultimate goal) but for the time it may only be a group a week.

Lastly, MOST students have been able to sign in to their respective Google Classroom. I sent specific, individual emails to the few remaining students who are not in there yet. It is imperative they do so as this is where they will find most of their reference/study materials, work to be graded, quizzes and general communications. Please let me know if your child needs help and I will do my best to accommodate. I know we got a few done in class on Friday. You

must contact me directly since each of my sections has a different code. I did include both the link and the code for each period in several emails last week. I know you all received more than you care to count between email from teachers, Mrs. Phillips and the district. Do know that I still maintain my [classroom web](#) page via Akimel A-al's home page. Maybe glance through it with your student as it can be a resource for them too. Mainly, it is a space for you to see what we are doing (via a calendar), documents, vocabulary and references for their learning.

Here's to a smoother 2<sup>nd</sup> week and gathering momentum to get this virtual thing done! Have a terrific weekend and thank you all for the support and commitment you have to your child's education. We cannot do it without you 😊

Respectfully,

*John McGuire* (480 541 5912)

