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FILLMORE CENTRAL SCHOOL

Fillmore Families,

We've had many questions and comments coming in about student school work. Some families are begging for more and some are saying, "Stop. We're overwhelmed." I wanted to clarify some things concerning school work for families.

First, the district is very aware that each family's ability to commit time, resources or adult support is different. Please do not overwhelm yourselves with academic practice. To expect any child, regardless of age, to work for the duration of a school day is unrealistic. Create a system that works for your family and your child. Remember that for elementary students a child's attention span is roughly the same number of minutes as their age. As students get older attention spans vary from child to child. Break work time up into manageable chunks for your child. Break things up with exercise, play, doing chores, and getting outside! I've heard some great experiences from our students learning about cooking, sewing and building during this time.

The packets that were delivered or mailed home contained work for students to practice skills over the next three weeks. Ease your child into the work load and grow expectations as they become more comfortable with the routine. Also, help to set priorities for your kids. If a teacher is emailing out tasks for response those can be done instead of the packets for the day. (Students in 5-12 should check their email regularly if they have internet access.) As a parent, you set the gage on how much they can handle in a day.

Please know that our teachers understand that not everyone is going to complete everything during this time. They are not grading the work that is being done, although they might offer an incentive to help the less motivated along. They are going to continue offering instruction and assignments as many students are hungry for the work and we don't want students losing ground during this time. If you have any questions about work please contact your child's teacher.

You are not alone in any of this. The administration, teachers and staff are new to all of this as well. The teachers are finding their balance. They miss the kids, and they miss sharing their passion for learning or their content area with their students. They are busy trying to learn new ways to reach students during this time. It is a growing process for all of us.

Above all else, please put your child's mental health at the forefront during this time. Social distancing is so important right now but it also leaves kids and adults feeling isolated or even scared. If your child is struggling please reach out to Kassi Bailey, Heidi Stroud or Annemarie Herzing for helpful tips or resources.

Thank you,

Mrs. Aylor