

September 2, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year at the Edward Gideon School. My name is Mrs. Gaskins and I will be your child's teacher for Math and Science. I look forward to working with you and your child this school year.

I realize that this year presents a new way of learning. New things can be scary and confusing, particularly for children. It is one of my goals for this year to create a virtual classroom that contains some routines that are comforting and at the same time academically challenging for your child.

Our school day is from 8:30 am to 3:09 pm each day. I will expect your child to complete class work that is assigned daily and homework that is assigned Monday through Thursday. Each Friday for the near future will have the teachers attending Teacher Trainings in the afternoon, but I will assign my students work to be completed independently during this time. Children are expected to be present for all parts of the school day. Any "skipping" of classes will result in a recording of an absence. The children are being graded on each class they attend each day and their report card grades will reflect missed classes and missed work. You will be notified if your child is missing classes through Class Dojo.

I am including the "Gideon Virtual Code of Conduct" with this welcome letter so that you will know the types of behavior we will expect from our virtual learners. My classroom expectations will be the same as those in that document. I will expect your child to dress properly for school with a uniform shirt, and I will expect our students to behave as if this is school because it is. Teachers in Learning Network 11 have been instructed to ask parents to purchase Tri-fold boards so that their children can create an environment that is less distracting. If you have a large cardboard box, or three pieces of poster board and some tape you could make your own tri-fold board.

I hope that your family was able to come to the school at the beginning of this week to pick up backpacks with supplies for your students. Many of the items that I will ask for are already included in these backpacks. I am requesting the following supplies.

- Book bag
- Pencils
- Pencil sharpener
- Eraser
- Lined paper-loose leaf is fine
- 2 marble composition books for notes in math and science
- colored pencils
- glue stick, glue, or tape
- packs of flash cards in the operation (s) your child needs help with
- tri-fold board-either store-bought or home-made

Most of these items can be found at dollar stores and many of them are already in the book bags that Mr. Wright gave out at Gideon.

I will make every effort to maintain frequent contact through Class Dojo. If you need to speak with me, the best time to reach me is between 3:30 ad 4:30. I do understand that some of you may be at work during this time so of course we will make arrangement to speak at a time that is possible for you.

Tough times mean that we will have to work a bit harder for the things that matter most. I look forward to working harder now because our children most certainly do matter most.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Gaskins