



Community Academy of Philadelphia
a Pennsylvania Charter School

Special Education Department

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www.communityacademy.org

April 16, 2020

Hello CAP Families,

I hope this letter finds you healthy and safe. As you are aware, Community Academy is currently closed for all students in accordance with Governor Wolf's school closure order. Community Academy's Distance Learning Plan began on Monday, April 6th.

This letter is to advise about planned changes and provision of a virtual free appropriate public education for your child, consistent with guidance issued by the U.S. Department of Education affording public schools "flexibility" in these unique circumstances. You and your child continue to have the rights regarding a free appropriate public education provided to you under federal law. For more information about those rights, including your right to dispute these proposed changes, view the Notice of Procedural Safeguards on our website, www.communityacademy.org.

Community Academy plans to initiate temporary, pandemic-related changes to your child's educational program and placement. Specifically, CAP proposes to initiate virtual special education and related services. Please note that any changes made are temporary and the programming in your child's current IEP will remain in place once school reopens.

By now you have received information from your child's special education team regarding access to virtual special education and related services for your child from both their General Education teacher(s) and Special Education Teacher or Related Services provider(s). This education and these related services will be based on your child's needs as much as possible, within the limitations of the virtual platform.

In the coming weeks, we will meet individually with each child's parent, through telephone or virtual conferencing. These meetings will enable us to better tailor your child's virtual education, to the extent we are able, as we all learn more about your child's experience with this new learning experience. You should also feel free to contact your child's Special Education teacher if you are having difficulties accessing virtual learning. As a reminder, please do not call the school. You will find Special Education Department contact information at the end of this letter.

Your child's virtual program will include participation in any virtual general education course work in subjects for which your child participates in the general curriculum. Information concerning general education coursework will be shared with all families separately.

We recognize that some students will not be able to fully participate in, or will gain only limited benefit from, these virtual programs and services. Once the school reopens, we will resume your child's educational program and placement as described in his or her IEP, and we will be discussing at IEP team meetings whether your child might require additional programming or services to address any learning problems the period of school closure might have caused.

Your child's mental and physical health is our primary concern. Children thrive on familiar routines, which is why our special education staff has been busy planning and preparing lessons and activities to reach and engage all learners. We miss you and your children very much and we look forward to seeing your children again in school. Until then, we'll work together with you to get your child through this pandemic and all it involves as best as we can in the circumstances. Please know that we are here for you and ready to assist with any questions or concerns you have.

Please take care,

Cassandra McLaughlin

Special Education Supervisor

Contact Information for your CAP Special Education Department

We look forward to getting back to work with you and your child soon. Until then, be safe, be well, and enjoy these suggested resources to support you and your family. Please feel free to reach out via email or phone during our time at home.

Special Education Administration	
Cassandra McLaughlin, Special Education Supervisor cmclaughlin@communityacademy.org	Maureen Eddy, MS, TESL Assistant Special Education Supervisor meddy@communityacademy.org 267-689-8253
Stephanie Lozano, Bi-lingual Admin. Asst. to Special Education slozano@communityacademy.org 267-439-1815	
School Psychologists	
Jessica Rausch-Esquivel, MSW, Ed.S. Bi-lingual School Psychologist jrausch@communityacademy.org 215-429-3434	Sara Walker, Psy.D. Nationally Certified School Psychologist saraferrywalker@gmail.com 215-301-8565

Speech Therapists, Occupational Therapists, and Physical Therapists

Rachel Engelhardt, OTR/L
Occupational Therapist
rengelhardt@communityacademy.org
215-514-9715

Lia Huntington
Occupational Therapist
lhuntington@communityacademy.org

Emily Torman, CCC-SLP
Speech-Language Pathologist
etorman@communityacademy.org
339-221-4603

Emily Cochran, CCC-SLP
Speech-Language Pathologist
emilycochran1@gmail.com
267.225.1981

Sharon Corbin
Physical Therapist
shared.corbin24@gmail.com
215-803-8787

Special Education Teachers and Paraprofessionals, Grades K-4

Grace Kim
Learning Support Teacher, K-2
gkim@communityacademy.org
267-467-0848

Stefanie Quinn
Life Skills/Autistic Support Teacher, K-2
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610.247.1692

Victoria Nyumah
Learning Support Teacher, K-2
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610-348-5465

Gardeliz Centeno
Bilingual Paraprofessional, K-2
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Alexandria Trefz
Paraprofessional, K-2
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484-470-5475

Eric Blakemore
Learning Support Teacher, 3-4
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Jessica Schwalm
Learning/Emotional Support Teacher, 3-4
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484-899-0765

Victoria Wells
Lead PCA, K-4
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Special Education Teachers and Paraprofessionals, Grades 5-8

Bridgette Wise
Learning Support Teacher, 5-6
bwise@communityacademy.org
267-590-9072

Danielle Ennis
Learning/Emotional Support, 7-8
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Ryan McAuley
Learning/Emotional Support, 7-8
rmcauley@communityacademy.org

Shannon Ditchkofsky
Life Skills/Autistic Support Grades 5-8
sditchkofsky@communityacademy.org

267-536-9229	724-726-1604
Katie Tausendfreundt Paraprofessional, Life Skills/Autistic Support 5-8 ktausendfreundt@communityacademy.org 484-466-9083	Danielle Straub Substitute Special Ed Teacher, 7-8 dstraub@communityacademy.org 215.620.7244
High School Special Education Teachers, Grades 9-12	
Emily Everett Special Ed Teacher, 9th grade eeverett@communityacademy.org 609-491-3072	Farrad McLaughlin Special Ed Teacher, 9th grade fmclaughlin@communityacademy.org 484-580-9105
Ryan Rank Special Ed Teacher, 10th grade rrank@communityacademy.org 484-531-4912	Paulla Jones Special Ed Teacher, 10th grade pjones@communityacademy.org 856-671-1287
Yvonne Holloway Special Ed Teacher, 11th grade yholloway@communityacademy.org 267-551-0090	Julie Rothenberg Life Skills/Autistic Support, 9-12 jrothenberg@communityacademy.org 856-671-1287
Maureen Eddy Special Ed Teacher, 12th grade Transition Coordinator meddy@communityacademy.org 267-689-8253	

CAP has counselors and social workers on staff available to meet with students and families that may need additional emotional support during this time (telephonically or virtually).

Emotional Support Team
Rebecca Keil , Elementary School Counselor, K-4th rkeil@communityacademy.org Karen Boyle , Elementary School Clinical Counselor, 5th - 8th kboyle@communityacademy.org Morgan Arbogast , ES & MS Clinical Counselor, marbogast@communityacademy.org Danielle Robinson , HS Counselor darobinson@communityacademy.org Lisette Rivera , HS Clinical Counselor lrivera@communityacademy.org Julissa Lora , Truancy Officer jlora@communityacademy.org

Recommended Resources from your Special Education Team

PARENT RESOURCES		
Resources	Links	Information
National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) Guide on Talking to Children on COVID-19	Guide on Talking to Children on COVID-19	Please follow this link to find tips and suggestions for parents regarding the current events. This is a wonderful parent resource. Also find additional links to resources on coping strategies regarding these current events.
Community Academy of Philadelphia Charter School	communityacademy.org	Updates will be made frequently to this site. Please be sure to check back daily for any new information.
Disrupted Routines Teaching Stories	Autism Speaks	Help your child understand and begin to cope with new routines in your home.
Google Classroom: A Parent's Guide	Parents Guide	Here's a parent's guide to Google Classroom!
Huffpost Life	Huffpost	How to talk to your kids about the virus
Talking to your child about the virus	Talking to Children About the Virus	How to talk to young children about the virus
Autism Speaks: Addressing COVID-19	Autism Speaks: How to address COVID-19	How parents can address the overall COVID-19 concern with their child
SOCIAL DISTANCING		
<i>Time To Come in Bear</i> : A children's story about social distancing	Click here for the story!	Help teach your little one about social distancing and the importance of staying home!
Family Quarantine Ideas!	Ideas for Quarantine	Giant list of ideas and activities for being home with the kids
Social Distancing: This is not a snow day!	Social Distancing	Information about flattening the curve

CLEANLINESS		
Video Modeling for Hand Washing	Wash Your Hands!	A resource that shows how germs do not like soap. A science experiment you can try at home!
Hand Washing Tips	Hand Washing	Hand washing resource for parents to refer to.
SOCIAL STORIES/ RESOURCES ABOUT CORONAVIRUS		
Social story for Young Learners (PreK-2)	Young Student Social Story	This is a social story that provides simple pictures and a limited amount of words for young students to understand why they do not have school.
Basic Picture Social Story	Social Story #2	This is a social story with pictures that describe the virus. This social story provides step by step ways to keep safe with clean hygiene practice and interaction with peers.
One Page Description for Parents to Read to Students	Explanation of COVID-19	This is a one page description to explain why students are not in school. This also addressed why students may do some school work from home. Parents can use the language presented in this description to help facilitate conversation with their child.
Julia Cook: <i>The Yucky Bug</i>	The Yucky Bug	A story called The Yucky Bug illustrated by students from an elementary school. The well-known author, Julia Cook wrote this story with the help of some creative students!
HOME SUPPORTS		
Example Daily Schedule	Daily Schedule	This is an example daily schedule to use for students during time off. This will assist parents in keeping a routine going for students.

Weekly Scheduling Template	Weekly Scheduling Template	This is a FREE template from Teachers Pay Teachers. You can print this template and write in plans by day to continue with a consistent and predictable routine.
Virtual Field Trips	Click Here!	Explore the world while staying home!
EMOTIONAL LEARNING/ COUNSELING		
Making Social/Emotional Learning Stick	Keep Calm and Structure On	We invite you to listen, download the tools, and tailor to your personal situation. If something resonates and you want to try it, great! If something doesn't seem to fit for your family or situation, then adapt as needed.
Emotional Support Resources	Case!	Resources offered on this website provide a powerful means to explore and express our emotions, build relationships, and support each other – children and adults alike – during this challenging time.
Child Feeling Anxious?	Just for Kids: A Comic Exploring The New Coronavirus	Here's some great information if your child is feeling anxious about coronavirus.
BEHAVIOR, SELF-MANAGEMENT		
Autism Speaks	Tips for managing children at home during COVID-19	Look here for strategies to handle challenging behaviors while at home.
Your Life, Your Voice	COVID-19	Resource for teens, helps deal with topics of anxiety, depression, quarantining with family.
PHYSICAL THERAPY		
Pediatric Physical Therapy: Teachers Pay Teachers	Pediatric Physical Therapy	FREE downloadable exercises and activities (Single leg balance, Core Exercises, Lower Extremity Stretches,

		Outdoor Activities)
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold yoga poses • Write a letter to a family member 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trace lines and shapes on paper, in shaving cream, or in sand 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a sensory box • Play cards (Go Fish, War, Slap Jack, Old Maid)
The OT Toolbox	31 days of Learning at home	A list of ideas for activities to complete with your children!
The Inspired Treehouse	The Inspired Treehouse	This is an excellent site for creative ideas for home therapy for both PT and OT
Therapy Street for Kids	Therapy Street	Comprehensive list of targeted skills to choose from (ex. Fine motor strength, handwriting skills, self-help skills) for activity ideas
OT Mom	Learning Activities To Develop Kids' Skills	Look here for fine motor and gross motor activities that are easy to do at home and that do not use fancy equipment or resources.
SPEECH AND LANGUAGE		
* Mirror Exercises- Speak in front of a mirror to help your child learn how the mouth moves when making a particular sound. Model the sound or speak slowly and have your child try and copy the movement.	* Talk about categories- Name items in a category, figure out which item in a list does not belong with the others and explain why	* Give your child directions to follow around the house (example: Go to your room and get your purple sweater). Add additional steps as indicated.
* Act out a scene from a movie or book	* Watch movies and/or read books together.	* To work on vocabulary/following directions: ask your child to look up

together- try to remember lines, or make up a different ending	Have your child predict what will happen next, talk about the characters (describe, compare and contrast them). Discuss feelings (Are they happy or sad?)	recipes and select one to create together. Have them locate/label ingredients/kitchen tools and encourage them to follow recipes as independently as possible.
Starfall Education (Preschool and Kindergarten)	Starfall	A great site to work on specific letters/sounds and early literacy skills
Quia: Free games	Speech and Language Games	Free speech and language articulation games
Story Place: online stories	Story Place	Free online stories and interactive activities for preschoolers and elementary-aged students. Each theme includes an online story, online activity, and printable “take home”.
The New York Times: Respond to daily writing prompts	New York Times	Great source of current topics for students to discuss. Have students list/discuss pros & cons, choose a side, explain their reasoning. Topic example: ‘Should parents track their teens’
Story Line: online stories and supporting activities	Storyline Online	Free online stories read aloud to your child, great books and follow up activities to keep your child engaged and learning!