May 5, 2020

Dear Cedar Tree Academy Parents,

I am writing today to share important news about Cedar Tree Academy’s Distance Learning Program. **Cedar Tree Academy’s 2019-2020 school year will end on June 12, 2020. This is will conclude all Distance Learning.** I still expect the upcoming school year, School Year 2020-2021, to begin in early August 2020 if public health guidelines permit. We are working closely with the city to determine what re-opening will look like.

You should be receiving Quarter Three Report Cards in the mail in next few days. Please reach out to your child’s teacher if you have any questions or concerns. Families can pick up Distance Learning Packets every Tuesday between 9:00 am to 2:00 pm, or access materials online at www.cedartree-dc.org. **The May/June packets are ready and available.**

Meals for DC students will still be available through the remainder of this pandemic. For more information on meal sites, please visit coronavirus.dc.gov/food.

While we continue to navigate these difficult times, the city and our school are considering summer learning options. We will share information about those option when they have been determined.

This has been an unprecedented time for our city, our school, and our students. But what has made our school community strong is our commitment to our students. That commitment has continued while we teach and learn from home, and it will continue when we are able to come together again within one building.

**I want to thank you for the support and love you have shown our teachers and staff.** Because of your patience and guidance, our children have continued to learn from home.

I will continue to update you on what the public health needs will mean for your family and our school community. If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact me at 202-610-4193.

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Quarter Four Frequently Asked Questions:

Q1. What is the timeframe for Quarter Four?

Quarter 4 began on Monday, April 27th and will last until Friday, June 12th. Teachers are available via email every day from 7:30 am - 4:00pm to answer any questions.

Q2. Will there be any changes to how Distance Learning is conducted in Quarter Four?

Our expectation remains that every student be engaged with their lessons during this Distance Learning time, through their physical learning packet and online opportunities. Printed packets will continue to be available for pick-up every Tuesday from 9am – 2pm at Cedar Tree. Students should continue to engage directly with their teachers on weekly activities. However, given the various challenges that students are facing, we recognize there may be periods of time when you cannot participate in Distance Learning. Teachers have recorded lessons you can access at your convenience on Class Dojo as opposed to only participating in a live virtual lesson with their class. We want learning to continue in a way that best suits your family’s situation, and a student's academic status will not be adversely impacted by the emergency closure of schools.

Q3. What does distance learning look like through the end of the school year?

Teachers and staff from CTA will continue to add lessons on CLASS DoJo three days per week. Parents can pick up new Distance Learning Packets from the school starting Tuesday May 5th from 9:00AM -2:00PM. These packets will come cover from the beginning of May through the last day of school in June.

Q4. How will Quarter Four Distance Learning student work be graded?

All Distance Learning Packets can be turned in on Tuesdays between 9am - 2pm, as the student completes them. They will be placed in the classroom teacher’s classroom/mailbox for them to access once we return to school. Student work consists of materials that have already been taught and should be seen as a review. This will help students with retention of skills.

Q5. How will Quarter Four grades be calculated?

Cedar Tree students will receive the same grades that they received in Quarter Three. Content areas where no instruction was given will be left blank. Students will not receive final grades.
Q6. What factors will determine if a student will be promoted?

Cedar Tree students will not be penalized from progressing to the next grade due to the absence of in-person intervention supports available during this period of extended school closures. By May 29th, teachers will reach out to the families of students who are not meeting promotion criteria to discuss what is in the best interest of the student for the 2020-2021 school year.

Q8. What student supports will be offered next year?

We know that many students will need additional support next year due to gaps caused by the extended closure. We want to ensure that all students have a robust support plan for next year. Cedar Tree is working on academic planning for a strong start next year that will include embedded supports for students with academic gaps. More information about support plans will be communicated to families as we finalize the plan.

Q9. What are the days off through the end of the year? How is the calendar being adjusted?

Monday, May 25th is the Memorial Day holiday; Cedar Tree Academy will be closed for all teachers and staff. As always, we will let you know any other closure days as they arise.

Q10. When will re-enrollment open for the upcoming 2020-2021 School Year?

It is re-enrollment time! If your child will be attending Cedar Tree for the 2020-2021 school year, please go the CTA website www.cedartree-dc.org
Click on “Click here to enroll”
Follow the steps for re-enrollment
You will be able to upload any needed documents electronically. This year families have the option to upload Proof of DC Residency directly to the online application. This is completely optional. Families still have the option to submit pertinent forms when the school re-opens.

Q10. When will new student enrollment open for the upcoming 2020-2021 School Year?

All families who participated in the My School DC lottery received their results on Friday, March 27. Due to learning at home, families will now have until Monday, June 15th to enroll and claim their matched seat. This year, we are launching an electronic submission process for SY20-21 enrollment. This information can be found on our website www.cedartree-dc.org.