

Hello Aldo Leopold Charter School families,

As our Spring Break comes to a close and we all move forward into our unknown break ahead, we wish to provide you with ideas for keeping learning afloat within our school community. At this time the state has asked that online learning not be mandatory. With that in mind we hope to share choices for your family that could provide structure and a platform to appeal to the social and enrichment needs of your middle schooler. We will continue to plan ahead as the state makes difficult choices about how our school year may proceed.

We have chosen **Google Classroom and Zoom** as platforms for creating a social learning media platform. Within days we will be trained as a staff and will be able to alert your family on how to access these sights. **For a start we are providing a top 10 list of activities that students may take part in and in turn post results to be shared with peers.** Students will also have a choice to just share with their teachers as well.

1. Find your favorite virtual museum tour. Share your results.
2. Find and post your favorite recipe.
3. Find the coolest at home science experiment. Post your results
4. Find and post the most interesting podcast.
5. Post your own challenge question of the week.
6. Find your favorite national park or monument to visit online. Post your results.
7. Post your favorite animal of the week.
8. Create your own "wut up" journal with video, pictures, and of course ***podcasts!!!***
9. Create your own fake product advertisement.
10. Post your doodles/artwork.

Here is how to access this site and the accompanying ideas:

An all middle school class has been created in **Google Classroom**. This is where we will be sharing information for ALL middle school students. To join the class, use the code: **6wdykll**.

6th graders - if you are using Google Classroom for the first time, follow these steps:

1. Go to classroom.google.com
2. Sign in using your aldostudents.org account.
3. Click on the "+" button in the top right to join your first class.
4. Enter the code: 6wdykll for the all school page. Enter 2gqoqzu to join the People of Bob page for just 6th grade. You can then teach Mr. Cantrell what to do with all that.

7th and 8th graders - please check-in on your other Google Classroom classes. Teachers will be posting information that pertains to their classes there.

You can also install the **Classroom app** on Android, Apple® iPhone and iPad, or Chrome OS mobile devices. To use all the features of the Classroom app, you need Google Docs, Sheets,

and Slides. If they aren't already on your device, you can get them from the Google Play Store (Android) or App Store (iOS). All apps are free.

Information for accessing **Zoom** (video communications) and meeting times will be posted on Google Classroom sites as we get those set up.

Our other suggestions are to establish a routine with your kids. Often morning is best when minds are fresh for math and other types of reasoning. Set aside specific work times and work spaces. Encourage time for expending physical energy in positive ways. Of course now is a great reminder to slow down and minimize emotional distancing. Family games, movie time, video chats with grandparents and so much more are now opportunities to remind us what is really most important.

We also recommend free online resources such as [Khan Academy](#) to help stay current with math skills, Don't be afraid if you don't remember a concept, it's a great opportunity to jump in and learn right along with your kid. Again, none of this is mandatory, we just wish to provide you with as much help and direction as we can. One of the best ways to keep up with reading is to choose a classic to either listen to OR to read aloud with the whole family--take turns reading and discussing with each other. Other fun educational ideas include [BrainPop](#) for a variety of educational videos and activities, [Yoga with Adriene](#) and [Mr. Motivator](#) (the best!) for fitness ideas to name a few. We encourage you and your child to share other resources as you discover them. Of course, keep reading books! We can get through this together as a community.

Tell your kids we actually miss them! We love and appreciate them!

Love, Your Aldo Middle School Staff