

Hello again.

Here is a schedule for recommended daily outside activities. This has been posted on Google Classroom for the kids to see. I want to reduce the amount of being online for online school, so I intend to assign things that I'm trusting the kids will do on their own. Please feel free to adjust things to your own family schedule. I'm just trying to provide support and help with ideas. Please remember that school restarts officially on April 6.

I've had some concerns in recent conversations about students getting behind, not passing, and losing skills during this time we are confronted with. Here is my advice. Don't worry. First of all, I've never been sure what we mean by the idea of being behind. Behind what exactly? The human race is not a contest. Your child is right where they should be right now, and together we will keep them moving along. The truth is I have covered many of the essentials in developing their brains for the next steps already. They have done a lot of work this year. It is expected that they will forget a lot and need to review much on any given year. This is okay, and it is what we deal with every year already. They will claim next year that Mr. Cantrell never taught them this no matter what we do. The truth is that we are constantly building their neural networks that stay put even when they can't remember ever learning how to add a mixed number. I mean, do you remember what you learned in the last weeks of 6th grade, or for that matter, how to add a mixed number? They will be fine. More important is that we give them the stability, guidance and love necessary for coming out better when this crisis ends. And of course they need each other. Let's give them that. All of that.

Love, and I mean lots of it,

Mr. Cantrell

Go Outside for Crying Out Loud!

Here is your schedule for your daily fresh air lesson. You will need to create a journal for this activity. Since this activity is designed to be done far away from electronic devices, I may never see your beautiful work. Since that is the case, your very own adult will have to grade it for me. So, once a week you must turn in a picture of your very own adult holding your journal with a thumbs up if you passed. Of course your very own adult may wish to share in these activities and do their own journal. If so, you may grade them and send in pictures of you holding their journal with your thumbs up or down.

Monday: 5 Senses Poetry - Put tape on your mouth (optional). Go outside for ten minutes looking for signs of Spring. When finished, write a quick sentence each for what you saw, heard, smelled, tasted and felt. Then minimize each sentence and put it together as a poem.

Tuesday: Bird Hunt - Go outside and see what birds you can see around your house and neighborhood. This is best done early in the morning! See if you can identify them and keep a list of what you see. If you don't have a good bird book, check online with the Cornell Lab

of Ornithology website. See if your list changes through Spring. Binoculars are a big help if you have them.

Wednesday: Stare at a Tree - Find a tree branch that has buds on it. Tie a piece of string onto it so you can easily find it next week. Make a sketch of what it looks like each week. If leaves have already started to grow, oh well, watch the changes anyway. After you have enough sketches you could draw them on index cards (or something) and make a flip book!

Thursday: Nature sit - Go find a nice place to just sit quietly by yourself for at least 15 minutes. Write a journal entry about your experience.