

ROCKET REVIEW

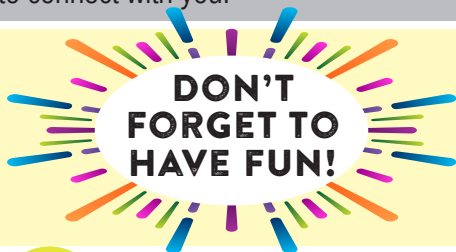
PROVIDENCE SPRING ELEMENTARY

NOTES FROM
PRINCIPAL
ARMBRUSTER

NEW BEGINNINGS

The synergy of opening a new school year brings excitement, anxieties and wonder. Students experience the joys of meeting a new teacher, new friends, and reconnecting with the old. School is the place where students feel safe and free to take risks. School is a refuge for many children. Schools are vital to learning and to the overall well-being of children. This school year, however, brings unique challenges. We do not enjoy being in a school with empty hallways and not being able to “see” our students. We are fully aware of the many different ways our students are negatively affected by not being in school on a daily basis. That said, I also want to make it very clear that we are 100% committed and ready to engage and teach our students! We have learned a lot since we began in March and our teachers have spent this summer learning how to provide remote learning in a more effective and engaging manner. Our staff is dedicated to continual learning this year so we can be better. Parents will learn how teachers are engaging and supporting students this year through our PTA and School Improvement Team meetings. You have our promise that we will do everything we can to support your students’ academic and emotional needs.

Every family has its own level of vulnerability to the coronavirus and its own ability to support learning in the home. Each child within that family has his or her own social and academic needs. Parents are playing a much larger role in their children’s learning, while navigating the stressors of work, home life, and a global pandemic. Understandably, parents are feeling a great deal of uncertainty. Our teachers are here to help -- parents are not expected to take the place of their students’ teachers. We want to partner with you. We want to connect with you.



It is rare for parents and children to have this much time together, so turn it into an opportunity for bonding. Remember, your relationship with your child is what is most important at this time.

Allow yourself, your children, and their teachers some latitude and grace during these unprecedented times. Understand you are not going to have all the answers, and this transition is not going to be perfect. Acknowledge this is not an ideal situation for anyone and give yourself permission to be flexible. Be the change that you want to see in the world.



Contacts

P: (980) 343-6935 | F: (980) 343-6939
Website: providencespringelementaryschool.wearecms.com
PTA Site: ProvidenceSpringPTA.weebly.com
Principal: Jane Armbruster | Asst. Principal: Linda O’Connor
Meghan Swedberg, PTA President: psepres@gmail.com
Jen Putnam, Designer/Editor: jenniferputnam07@yahoo.com



Respectfully,
Jane
Armbruster

REMOTE LEARNING TIPS

1 Understand your role
Parents should play the support role. Keep your child engaged and critically thinking. Even though staying home from school might feel like a holiday, remind your children that they are not on vacation.

2 Make a space for learning
Your children will do their best work in a quiet, comfortable, and dedicated space devoted to learning. Ideally, this will be a different space than where they normally play games or watch television.




3 Set clear expectations
Parents should build time into their remote workday to assist with their students’ learning and schedule other activities they know their children will be able to do independently. Consider scheduling “office hours” when you’re available for school-related questions.

4 Reach out for help
Remember that you’re not alone in this journey. For parents working with multi-aged children, take a team approach and ask older siblings to help support younger students. Don’t hesitate to ask your child’s teacher for tips and guidance.

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Your Guide to PSE's Online Resources

PSE Info	PSE School Website	https://schools.cms.k12.nc.us/providencespringES	PSE's main school website. Use this site to find information about upcoming events and links to various resources, like the grade-level websites, assignments, Paideia info, etc.	Cost: Free!
PTA Info	PSE PTA Website	http://providencespringpta.weebly.com	The PSE PTA's website. Use this site to find PTA-related information about upcoming events, volunteering, Pay4SchoolStuff, the <i>Rocket Review</i> , PTA board contact info, etc.	Cost: Free!
PTA Payments	Pay4SchoolStuff 	https://www.pay4schoolstuff.com	The PSE PTA's online payment system. Use this site to buy anything that the PTA sells: required fees, tickets to events, Rocket Raffle, Yearbook, Publications, etc.	Cost: Free!
Student Directory	Membership Toolkit	https://providencespringpta.membershiptoolkit.com or mobile app	The PSE PTA's online directory. Use this site or the mobile app for the latest contact info for students, class rosters, etc.	Cost: \$2/family
Cafeteria Payments	PayPAMS 	https://paypams.com or mobile app	CMS's online school lunch payment system. Use this site or the mobile app to manage your child's school lunch account: add money, set up alerts, monitor lunch spending, etc.	Cost: Free!
Field Trip Payments	OSP 	http://osp.osmsi.nc.com/cms	CMS's online payment system. Use this site to pay for school field trips. All field trip payments must be made through OSP to eliminate cash/checks in the classroom and loss of instructional time due to cash/check processing.	Cost: 4% of the transaction amount
Remote Learning	Canvas	https://cms.instructure.com/login/canvas or mobile app	CMS's online portal for remote learning	Cost: Free!
Grades	PowerSchool	https://cms.powerschool.com/public or mobile app	CMS's online record for grades. Use this site or the mobile app to check grades, attendance reports, etc. Grades are tracked starting in third grade.	Cost: Free!
Volunteers	CMS Volunteers	https://www.cmsvolunteers.com	CMS's volunteer portal. Use this site to register as a volunteer at PSE (required for all volunteers!) and to log your volunteer hours.	Cost: Free!



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