



11th Grade Roundtable via Zoom April 1, 2020

Brooke's opening remarks: I love these roundtables always. We get to connect as humans and mothers, especially important during these times. There will be more question marks than answers. Teachers are also parents. It's been a rough run. I am very interested in critical concerns. Try to meet everyone where they are and make things meaningful. It's been very challenging. Constructive criticism and praise points: both are welcome.

COMMENTS ABOUT SPRING BREAK?

BROOKE'S REMARKS:

- This is a state of emergency. State has ordered to continue to provide instruction through Spring Break.
- Students need a break but yes, routine, etc.
- We feel as a team, the goal is **not** to recreate the learning and curriculum before school closure. The goal is to get smarter about what experiences create community in this time of distancing.
- What we have up in place now, we got up and running very quickly as a stop-gap measure. But the way we are doing it now is not sustainable for the teachers nor the students.
- You can look forward to a revised and improved program for April 20th through mid-June (end of the year)
- We are not going to please everybody: looking to create programming that is both engaging and kind

Details about AP Exams?

BROOKE'S REMARKS:

- College Board has not cancelled nor postponed AP Exams
- Created new versions of each exams - 45 minutes and taken online. Students are welcome to pursue that.
- We are not positioning AP Exams as the main event of this time
- Colleges will and are already recognizing this semester as Uber-aberrant
- LAB has sent to all families the explanation and the link to AP Exams
- Olivia Arroyo – is our testing coordinator and she is on top of these exams
- AP's are taken once. Then you can opt to share the score; Retake is not an option.
- College Board will be updating the dates of the exams at the end of the week
- College Board website has practice materials already up online
- LAB is not going to use Human Resources to support the AP Exams
- College Board: www.collegboard.org – all of these questions are addressed, and resources provided

REGENTS: ARE THEY CANCELLED?

- **UPDATE AS OF APRIL 7, 2020: The June 2020 administration of the Regents exams is cancelled.**
- Good news, there are very few juniors and seniors who still need June Regents to graduate
- For juniors, those students can makeup those exams in the fall and the school will support them with the appropriate prep.
- For Seniors, the Chancellor is considering Regents to be waived (Update as of April 8, 2020)
- Summer school? – status is not known
- For juniors, Regents will not impact course grades or graduation

GRADING: WILL ADJUSTMENTS BE MADE?

BROOKE'S REMARKS:

- We are allowing teachers modify their grade derivation formulas so that they make more sense
- Part of the plan post-Spring Break is to build in "Checks for Understanding" once per week in each core class that will result in grades that are recorded in JupiterGrades
- Students will have opportunities to re-do, revise, resubmit because it's very important that students are learning during this time; but also that students have the opportunity to be reflected in the best possible light on their transcripts, with a focus on the core classes
- With all the assignments, links, zooms, office hours, instead put emphasis on focusing on that touchpoint each week to show what you know
- Office Hours can then be more guided, to support work around learning and the Checks for Understanding.
- It will be a closed cycle: At the beginning of the week, teachers will introduce an overview of what the week will look like. Students can self-pace or receive a pacing calendar, for those who need it.

- Over the course of the week: students will be given practice and collaborative opportunities
- Instead of daily assignments for every class, they will be focused on the checks for understanding – understand the main skills and ideas of this weekly arc.
- JupiterGrades will be on and continue to be on for the duration, so you can check where your student is
- Look at JupiterGrades as a workbook – keeping track of what students are being asked to do and how they are following through. Parents should know that students are doing their best. That is all we can ask.
- Considering Pass/Fail as an option but not rolled out universally. Some students had grades in March that they want to protect and build on for their transcripts. For other students, expecting work during this crisis is not a fair ask. So perhaps Brooke could offer a Pass/Fail for these students or for electives.

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES? DAILY FAMILY CIRCLE AND MORNING MEETINGS

- Chancellor cancelled Parent-Teacher conferences
- The original approach was an outreach to each family – focusing first on students with IEP's. Then for students who have not been heard from remotely, then add more families
- FAMILY CIRCLE: groups of 12, assign to one adult; Morning meeting with family group, required to check-in, attendance, review academic expectations; referral to guidance, if necessary; build-in physical activity.
 - o **DAILY** Check-in with a go-to point person around 10:00 (a reasonable ask for teens)
 - o Parent suggestions: They need sleep right now. If not a physical activity, then a breathing activity
- Remote Learning 2.0 (proposed launch April 20) with “Checks for Understanding”
- We are not trying to replicate school day – instead, lean into book talks, build in more collaboration; get kids talking to each other, **NOT** default to chalk-and-talk model.
- Need a combination of interaction and learning
- Discontinue the original plan to launch Remote Learning 2.0 on **April 20th**

SPRING BREAK?

BROOKE'S REMARKS as per NYC Lab School newsletter on April 4, 2020 (latest news):

- April 9-12: *ACTUAL HOLIDAY BREAK*. Teachers and counselors *are off*. I heartily recommend that students also take a restorative break. Be with family. Happy Easter and Passover to those who observe. Happy rites of spring to all.
- April 13-17: ***The Spring Break in which we are required to provide remote instruction.*** We will use this time as follows:
 - o Support Students as they catch up (make up work, revise work).
 - o Support Students who need explicit coaching in how to navigate remote learning.
 - o Offer academic enrichment opportunities--course extensions.
 - o Offer out of the box enrichment opportunities.

IS IT APPROPRIATE TO E-MAIL THE TEACHER, IF YOU WANT TO HAVE A PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCE?

- It is entirely appropriate for parents to contact teachers to have a call about their students
- If you are not hearing back, contact Brooke so she can give some context or help get a response.
- Staying connected is everyone's priority right now.

SOME COMMON COMMENTS FROM OTHER GRADES?

- Video sessions will be required, but fewer. Pace-wise: slowing things down.
- 8:30 meeting time is not realistic. Push the day later for meetings.
- Office hours are too loose – aligning office hours with “Checks for Understanding” will give more motivation to attend. For example, I am still struggling with a poem. Teacher will break it down during office hours.

HOW IS INSTRUCTION BEING DELIVERED TO THE STUDENTS?

- Some teachers are still teaching mini-lessons through the Zoom. Others are recording videos and posting.
- Some teachers are referring to Kahn Academy, EdPuzzle, and others that take on the instructional piece.
- Just assigning work is not teaching or learning.

- The teaching piece is the most challenging to replicate in this modality/ remotely.
- Turning to more collaborative structures with instructional videos. YouTube or Teacherbanks.
- There is a range of facility among the faculty with creating and posting these videos.
- Teachers are helping each other and getting smarter.
- Classwork and homework are being conflated.

ANY CHANCE THAT STUDENTS WILL RETURN TO SCHOOL BEFORE THE END OF JUNE?

- We have not even reached the apex yet, given the arc of this virus
- Given the criticism of the chancellor when closed schools, it's unlikely re-open schools prematurely.
- Brooke does not know any more than anyone else.
- The ambiguity is tough – it would be better to know one way or another.

ARE STUDENTS SUPPOSED TO HAVE DAILY ZOOM SESSIONS WITH EACH TEACHER?

- There is a master schedule of meetings for the 11th grade. Those are all the Zoom sessions in place. It is expected that students show up to those sessions.
- Starting on April 20th, they will have morning meetings at 10:00.
- Parent/teacher suggestion: institute an A and B Day schedule?
- Above every other concern, address anxiety about the world.
- Some Zoom meetings are personal and ICT-mandated; The General Zoom sessions, are currently opt-in
- But in the new Remote Learning, the video interface will be where instruction happens; thus required.
- LAB wants to be sensitive to the home environments of some families who are not able to participate at the same time as the group. As a result, she wants to resist a synchronous model.
- However, when possible, coming at the same time is most helpful to most kids.
- PARENT IS EMPOWERED TO REQUIRE IT FOR THEIR STUDENT, IF THE PARENT KNOWS THE STUDENT IS CAPABLE OR IN NEED OF THE REQUIREMENT.

WORK LEVEL SEEMS MORE THAN USUAL

- The workload comes from a good place. Teachers want to give all the material that students were supposed to get. But in the context of conflating schoolwork and homework, it's too much.
- She's working with teachers: encouraging them to be intentional about what needs to be worked on
- We cannot cover all the material in this context. The "coverage" model is not working.
- Giving teachers the idea: "be kind to yourself, be gentle, be forgiving." Teachers have such a high standard for their own professionalism.
- This is nothing we could have planned or trained up for. Acknowledging the toll of fear, loss, and not knowing are taking on our psyche and our capacity.
- Stress is preying on our immune system. We have to counteract that, to stay healthy & strong.

ANY WORDS OF WISDOM/SHARE, AS A FELLOW MOM, PARENT, AND PRINCIPAL?

- I have two 16-year-olds, who are having two different experiences
- Daughter – self-motivated, able to go on a ride with socially distant ride, does her thing.
- Son – anxious, depressed, overwhelmed. Barely able to log-on. Giving him a wide berth – whatever he can do is great. Focusing on sleep training piece. Taking the tech away by 9/10:00. So, he can face the world. Focusing on giving wide berths and be forgiving.
- It's an opportunity to really re-examine our values.
- Family values are very important: house chores are as important as schoolwork.
- Finding value in other ways of being. Much more required than schoolwork to get through this crisis.

COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCESS: ANY RE-ASSURANCE FOR PARENTS?

- From a transcript POV, we will do everything in our power to represent students in the best possible light.
- From a college POV, Ms. Rosen and I have already been touching base with colleges. Every college rep is recognizing that this year is aberrant beyond.
- The message to the students is: Do your best to show up and engage. The transcript will not have the same immutable quality that it did before.



- SAT June exam date - is still available at this point. If it does not happen, it's possible to retake in the fall.
- Online preparation is most practical for the moment.
- There's already been a notable wave among colleges to make SAT optional. This crisis will push that trend forward. If this does not end up being the semester of being the best test-taker, know that there will be many opportunities in the future.

STUDENT ANXIETY AS A RESULT OF CRISIS AND GRADES DROPPING. WHAT CAN I TELL MY STUDENT THAT'S REALISTIC AND REASSURING?

- Trust that teachers recognize the current circumstances. For the transcript, they will try to be as generous as possible without randomly inflating grades. They will be looking to best representation of mastery. College will look at this semester in that light.
- Easier said than done for an academically driven kid
- Pace, calm, and health and wellness are more important than the GPA right now
- If she's able to engage and turn work in, that's exceeding expectations right now.

COLLEGE COUNSELOR MEETINGS

- Reach out to Ms. Rosen proactively if the college meeting would help your student right now
- Parent suggestion: Use this opportunity to source of an essay – a challenge – how did you meet that moment? Thinking about that question deeply to guide one's own behavior, how do you rise up to an occasion like this one?
- Follow-up Roundtable – Target the first week in May – check back in

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING CHARTER - how do we want to feel every day – we all want to feel energized, balanced, connected, and valued. Anything you can do to achieve those aspirational feeling states, even if it feels like you're compromising or cutting corners. Do whatever you can do to achieve those feelings.

"Permission to Feel" by Marc Brackett: Brooke's book for this year. Great recommendations for this time.

Please contact Marlowe Bamberger, 11th grade SLT member (marloweb104@gmail.com) or Karen Magon, 11th Grade Rep (karenmagon@yahoo.com) with any questions or comments.