

Dear Linden Waldorf School Community,

It was so fantastic to “see” so many of you in our Virtual Assembly this morning! Listening to everyone greet each other was just what we needed after this tumultuous week. We are looking forward to this all-school event each week. Thank you for your understanding while we work out some technical kinks before next Friday. We will continue with our Virtual Assembly every Friday at 8:30 and we will send a secure Zoom link each week.

As we reach the end of Spring Break for families, I want to provide more concrete details on our Beyond the Classroom Distance Learning Program launching on Monday, March 30, 2020. All of the information provided below is excerpted from our new Beyond the Classroom Distance Learning Handbook that will be provided to families via e-mail in the coming days. We will also post this handbook in the parent portal of our website.

To say this has been one heck of a week is an understatement! Our faculty have spent countless hours collaborating on Zoom calls, teaching each other how to use new technology, making video tutorials for you and for each other, recording themselves presenting lessons, crafting a school-wide schedule—the list goes on. It has truly been a labor of love to design and implement an age-appropriate and intentional Waldorf curricular experience in a distance learning platform.

Class Materials Pick-Up - Sunday, March 29

The teachers have gathered class materials (such as flutes, recorders, crayons, main lesson books, craft supplies, etc.) to support your child’s continued learning at home. These will be placed under the church portico (where pick-up usually would be). Look for a traffic cone labeled with your child’s class.

Please follow this schedule for Sunday’s pick-up and maintain social distancing protocols. If you have more than one child, please follow your oldest child’s time below:

Rose, Sunflower, and Grades 1-5: 10 am to 1 pm
Grades 6-8: 1 pm to 4 pm

Marigold and Daisy class teachers will be in touch with their families directly.

If you are unable to pick up your supplies on Sunday, please contact your teacher to make other arrangements.

What You Can Expect

Google Classrooms will open by 4 pm on Sunday, March 29.

As a reminder, each class has been set up with its own Google Classroom and every teacher for that class, including subject teachers, will be able to provide content for their students. Depending on the age of the class, the content will be geared either towards parents or towards students. For ease of the teachers in identifying the families in their Google Classrooms, we have set up a login for each student that parents will use to access the material.

E-mail Accounts

Each student enrolled at Linden has been assigned a Google mail account for parents (or students, for grades 7 and 8) to access the materials in their Google Classroom. You will receive your child’s e-mail address and temporary password, along with detailed instructions on how to access their Google Classroom, by 4 pm on Sunday, March 29. These instructions will include a short video tutorial.

Zoom

We will be using Zoom (rather than Google Hangouts Meet) as our online video call platform. You can familiarize yourself with Zoom [here](#). Teachers are planning to utilize Zoom in various ways appropriate to their class to provide opportunities for warmth and connection through parent meetings, small groups, or live class instruction. Invitations to Zoom meetings will be sent by your teachers and contain a direct link to the video conference. There have been a number of Zoom meetings among staff this week, and we have been happy for the social connection!

Daily Schedule

We will be engaging in age-appropriate synchronous (real-time) and asynchronous (learning/sharing outside the constraints of time and place) off-site learning. You will receive your child’s class schedule from your teacher by Sunday, March 29.

Technical Support

We will have technical support available Monday through Friday from 8 am - 4 pm.

For some, this will be an exciting time of learning new technology; we are here to assist those less certain. We know this will not be perfect. While in many ways we are blessed to utilize the tools we have, know that many of the faculty and administrative team will be learning right alongside you and our students.

We will be using a dedicated ticketing system that will allow us to efficiently track technical questions that will be answered promptly. We will send that information in the coming days.

Support for Parents

The Beyond the Classroom overviews listed below provide information specific to parents in Early Childhood and Grades 1-8. Please read them thoroughly!

[Simple Guidelines for Families](#)

[Link to overview of Beyond the Classroom for Early Childhood](#)

[Link to overview of Beyond the Classroom for Grades 1-8](#)

In closing, I want to reiterate that our focus this week has been to develop ways to continue to connect with individual students, families, and classes. We are aware of the weight this situation places on parents and we are striving to alleviate that as best we can. Please let me know how you're doing. And I know that your teachers want to know if your child is feeling confused or stressed. None of us ever expected to be doing this, but here we are! We are all learning to adjust to new family rhythms as we go and we will need to support each other, so please don't hesitate to reach out to me and forgive what may be a longer-than-usual response time on my part these days. As always, it's my pleasure to hear from you.

Sincerely,



Tricia Drake, Head of School

Linden Waldorf School

Serving Children in Early Childhood through Eighth Grade

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