



## Linwood School at Home

**Dear Linwood School Families,**

We are a few days away from starting our continuance of learning experience from home. Know that we are committed to providing meaningful learning experiences, while staying connected with our Linwood community.

Below is a list of **seven important steps** to help you and your child(ren) adjust at home to support your child's learning progress and maintain a positive balance in expectations through each day.

### **7 Steps to Success:**

#### **1. Create a Proper Learning Space**

Each student needs a comfortable, functional, well-lit space for learning, preferably away from household distractions. Students need enough room to have the materials they need at hand, while also staying organized. This could be a desk in their room or a section of your dining room or kitchen table.

#### **2. Maintain Schedules and Routines**

As you know, our school day runs from 9:05 am – 3:40 PM with many chances for movement, music, and opportunities for play and collaboration. Be sure these elements have also been worked into your child's day at home.

**Routines and Announcements** – Each day, you will find a post on our school Instagram account that will include announcements and the sharing of some

upcoming calendar events and school news. Our Instagram account is @linwoodstjames.

**Daily Schedules** – Please be sure your child’s day includes variety. Most days consist of three 30-45 minute “individual working” chunks that are broken up throughout the day with sharing of stories, music, gym, recess, lunch learning, games and rigorous gym activity. Be mindful of these breaks in individual work times and encourage movement and variety throughout the day.

### **3. Get Supports from Our Staff**

**Teachers** – students and families will receive direct communication through Seesaw, email or over the phone from their teachers to check in and support their learning and emotional well-being. Be sure to reach out as needed.

**Student Support Services (Guidance and Resource)** – Mrs. Turner and Mrs. Macdonell continue to support all students in our school, working closely with teachers to ensure all students who already receive support at school continue to receive it while they are at home. The team is available by email and phone.

**NOTE:** Even if your family has not needed Student Support Services before, our team is available to you and your child. These are unprecedented times. We know some children (and families) will need some extra support, and we are here to provide it.

#### **4. Students Meet Expectations**

**Getting Ready for the Day** - students should be encouraged to gain independence and ready for learning each day. This includes getting dressed (out of their PJ's), having a good breakfast and organizing themselves with the supplies, books and resources they need for the day.

**Getting Work Done** – Set a learning goal for the day of what needs to be finished while ensuring the day remains balanced and includes time for movement, music and play. The idea of the home packages is to not rush through, rather to be understanding of the content. Once you've achieved your learning/working goals for the day - stop and celebrate!

#### **5. Parents Play a Role**

**This is not home school!** Parents are not expected to teach their children or even understand the class material. Parents' role is to make sure children have what they need for learning, get them to "class," check in to make sure they are completing their assignments, and let teachers know if extra support or resources are needed.

**Monitor screen time** – Ensure you're being mindful of screen time use at home. Be mindful to keep screen time within recommended limits based on a student's age and developmental stage (2-3 hours for children ages 5 -10). We recommend that families set rules together about time on screens.

## **6. Take Advantage of Technologies**

**Seesaw** – Much of our class communication and learning will take place via Seesaw. We hope this will give parents more control over their children's schedules. Teachers will also post links to helpful resources and ideas.

**Online resources and websites** – Teachers have shared out many supportive websites and online resources that are available to you through a purchased licence or may just be free to use for all. Balance these resources with any other gaming platform your child may enjoy. If you need further suggestions, please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher for more.

## **7. Stay Connected to Our School Community**

Classroom learning is one part of life at Linwood. Right now, helping students and families continue to feel a sense of community and connection, is equally critical.

**Share with us** - we know some extraordinary things will be happening in your households over the coming weeks. Please share your photos, videos and stories of your child(ren) learning, at play, taking breaks outside, practising mindfulness or just being creative with us and we would be happy to share on our school account for others to see: <[linwood@sjasd.ca](mailto:linwood@sjasd.ca)>

**Let's Do This!**

I am beyond proud of our staff and the extraordinary work they have put in over the past week preparing for the upcoming change in learning for our students. I know you join me in thanking each of them for caring for our Linwood School families while balancing and taking care of their own during this challenging time.

We will continue to communicate with you in the coming days. Thank you for your partnership in this new learning adventure. Take care and stay safe.

Sincerely,

**Ryan Miller**

**Principal**

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