



Central Park East I Elementary School

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March 27, 2020

Dear Families,

This week, our community is a mix of people working double shifts and people who just lost their jobs. We have parents working in hospitals, and parents home sick. Some of us have children home without us. Some of us have twenty-four hours a day with our children, but little time to help them.

We are ending the first of many school weeks at home. This week, you did great. Distance learning is *hard*. We found a way to start.

Google Classroom can be overwhelming, particularly if you are trying to support young children. Our school staff is working to make it more straightforward. We're also trying to keep children working and thinking on projects that *do not involve screens*.

Learning from home will get smoother as we all keep practicing. Promise. We appreciate the support you have been able to give so far.

Our staff have been trying to connect families to resources, whether that's access to laptops for children or groceries for everyone. We have had some success. We have a long way to go.

I wrote at the start of this week that our first goal for distance learning would be supporting children emotionally. I don't love computers, but appreciate all the times staff could connect with children across struggles and distance.

On a warm Friday at 2:59 P.M., I should walk into the courtyard at school, say hello to families, and wish children a good weekend. Today, at 2:59, I went outside with a laptop. The courtyard on a Friday makes me thankful for the school week that just ended. At the end of a very hard week, I'm especially thankful. The whole staff of CPE1 understands some of what families have been dealing with this week. You have our admiration and support.

—Gabriel