

## **It's Virtual Learning! What do I do now?**

Dear Parents and Students:

It has been wonderful to connect with many of you by phone or email over the last few weeks. Certainly, we have needed this time to adjust to a new way of ...well, everything...including school. Here is the plan going forward, beginning April 6<sup>th</sup>.

### **READ!**

In my previous correspondence, I indicated that the best way for students to continue learning in support of all classes, no matter the subject, is to read. Pick a novel and dive in for at least 20 minutes per day. Pick something to take you away to another world. Or choose an old favorite for comfort. Get the whole family involved and read together. I have a number of free resources for reading as helpful links on my webpage.

### **MY WEBPAGE**

On Gateway STEM High School's website, under the STAFF Tab, there is a list of teachers' web pages. I will post all instructions and assignments for each week on my page by 8 AM Monday mornings. To the left of my photo is a sidebar with links to English I and Journalism/Publications assignments. Click on your class and first, read the instructions and expectations for the week.

### **MICROSOFT TEAMS**

Students have been invited via their SLPS student account to join my classroom team. To join Microsoft Teams, students need to open their SLPS student email and follow the instructions on the email from Microsoft Teams. They can also download the Microsoft Teams app for free to their phone for easier access. Teams will also show assignments and students may use it to turn in work. A link is also on my webpage.

### **EXPECTATIONS AND GRADES**

For high school students, the time commitment for virtual lessons and assignments will be between 5 - 10 hours of classwork per week for each core content classes. For electives, the time commitment is 1-2 hours per week.

In alignment with neighboring districts, we will be holding all students "harmless" with regard to grades. This means all students' third quarter grades will be frozen and transferred as their fourth quarter grades. In summation, assignments can only help and not hurt students.

### **MISSING MY STUDENTS**

I do miss seeing students every day! I am hoping, either through TEAMS or ZOOM, we will be able to hold a virtual class in the coming days. Then we can really talk together. I will send an invite through your email about when to set up. Until then, be well!

**---Ms. Dennison**

If you have technical difficulties or other needs, please see the resources I have listed below.

## **GATEWAY SUPPORT**

A technology related problem or issue

[phillip.bova@slps.org](mailto:phillip.bova@slps.org)  
[www.slps.org/tech](http://www.slps.org/tech)

A personal, academic or social-emotional concern

[megan.michalek@slps.org](mailto:megan.michalek@slps.org)  
[studentservices@slps.org](mailto:studentservices@slps.org)

Senior activities or senior dues

[emma.goldberg@slps.org](mailto:emma.goldberg@slps.org)  
[katie.meyer@slps.org](mailto:katie.meyer@slps.org)

College applications, scholarships

[mikayla.cowen@slps.org](mailto:mikayla.cowen@slps.org) (Last Names A-K)  
[Katie.meyer@slps.org](mailto:Katie.meyer@slps.org) (Last Names L-Z)

## **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

SLPS is providing resources for our families impacted by the spread of COVID-19. Refer to them here:

- District helpline for families and students: 314-345-6900
- Financial, social and emotional resources: [www.slps.org/resources](http://www.slps.org/resources)
- Distribution sites for student meals: [www.slps.org/meals](http://www.slps.org/meals)
- FAQs: [www.slps.org/covidfaq](http://www.slps.org/covidfaq)