

April 16, 2020

[ascendlearning.org](http://ascendlearning.org)

Dear Ascend Families:

We want to thank you for everything you are doing to support your scholar's remote learning experience. While our transition from physical classrooms to our virtual Google classroom platform was unexpected and swift, your patience and partnership have made that transition a success.

We don't yet know how long we'll be dependent on remote learning. However, with every week that passes it seems increasingly possible that remote learning will be necessary for the remainder of the school year. With this in mind, we are continuously seeking out ways to improve this experience for everyone.

We're currently trying to get a better understanding of just how much our students are learning so that we can identify any learning gaps that need to be closed. In order to measure the learning that is taking place, we plan to **incorporate assessments** into your scholar's current remote learning experience. While these assessments will yield scores, these scores are not "grades". Assessment scores will be shared with you as updates to give you a sense of your scholar's progress. They will also be used to help teachers better measure **what** and **how much** scholars have learned and what they need more help to understand.

Individual assessment scores will provide teachers with the opportunity to focus their efforts to better meet specific student needs. Collective assessment scores will help teachers to focus lessons on the most important content in a grade/subject and will provide comprehensive data for Ascend to consider when planning for the 2020 - 2021 school year.



Your grade K-2 scholar will be assessed on three content areas: writing, math, and Foundations and your 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> grade scholar will be assessed on two content areas: math and writing. The **writing assessment** will be based on the pieces created by your student over the course of each unit. Both the **math and Foundations assessments** will be conducted by phone as one-on-one conversations between your student and their teacher. Generally, the math assessment will take the form of problem-solving questions and the Foundations assessment will consist of phonics drills. All assessments will be scored based on a consistently applied rubric, and results will inform the content of future teacher check-ins with parents and any indicated individualized support to students. Materials related to assessment will be shared via your student's Google Classroom and will include clear instructions about how the assessment will be scored.

At the end of the year you will be provided with a Learning Update that will inform you about how your child's progress. The Learning Update will include **scores** from the first 6 weeks of Term2 (while we were still physically in school), **participation scores** during the first four weeks of remote learning, and **assessment scores** from April 20th onward. Together, these three elements will illustrate your scholar's progress for the final half of the academic year.

Thank you again for your continued support of your scholar's remote learning experience. As always, please reach out with any questions, concerns, or feedback you may have. We're all in this together!

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elena Strauss".

Elena Strauss, School Director