



October 2, 2020

Dear North Creek Families,

It was another different, but fantastic week of learning with our little Bulldogs!

We learned a lot as we navigated our first week of Hybrid learning together in the building. As you can imagine, there are many “new” things to consider. The positive energy they bring to our vintage building is incredible.

### **All Virtual Families**

Thank you for your help and support in adjusting to the schedule of the hybrid building schedule. Having both groups of students on the same teaching and learning schedule is important for scheduling our special area classes, coordinating subs and allowing our teachers to continue a high level of collaboration. We appreciate your flexibility and understanding.

### **Hybrid Families**

Our first week of hybrid was a success in so many ways. There are a few things we need to adjust for students and staff.

If your child is Zooming in on one of their “at home” days, he/she will log into their **class meeting at 8:00** – rather than 7:50. We’ve discovered that we need a few extra minutes in the classroom for students to navigate the handwashing and unpacking routines, while teachers welcome students, supervise the “soap suds” and sufficient rinsing, take attendance and record lunch counts.

Now that we’ve had a week to try things out, we have worked out many kinks in using the technology to reach students at home while we are still trying to support students in the room. In order to prevent your child at home from being on their screen longer than necessary our teachers will be communicating the times they need your child to be on Zoom throughout the day. Those times may look a little different than they did this week, in an effort to reduce screen time and to allow our teachers to focus on supporting students in the classroom.

While your child is learning on one of their “at home” days, he/she will log in for the class meeting. Then the teacher will let them know what time he/she should return for the next lesson. **For things like reading workshop, writing workshop, phonics, your child will need to be on Zoom only for the lesson, which is usually 10 – 15 min.** We call them mini lessons. The mini lesson includes directions for what your child is supposed to practice during their independent work. So they really need to be what we call “hyper-focused” in order to know what they should do when the teacher asks them to get off Zoom to work independently.

In summary, your child’s “at home” days will consist of joining the class meeting, then a series of mini lessons (on Zoom) with independent work time (off Zoom) in between. This will allow students at home to access the learning and allow the teachers to focus on the students in the classroom on that day.



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Your child's teacher will share the specific times when he/she needs your child to be on Zoom. As you can imagine, we still ask for your patience and flexibility when kids are logging in as sometimes interruptions in the schedule happen when caring for little ones.

### **IMPORTANT - Chelsea School District App**

Please download the Chelsea School District app. It can be found in the App Store.

**For Hybrid Families - The Daily Student Health Screener is now on the app. You can find it by clicking on the Bulldog with a facemask.**



### **North Creek Halloween Parade**

On Friday, October 30, we will be having our annual Halloween Parade at North Creek. Like everything else, it will look differently this year.

October 30 is a half day for students and staff. All students will log into their class meeting that morning. Between 9:00 - 9:30, all students (both virtual and hybrid) are invited to dress up and drive through the front loop at North Creek. Our staff members will be in costume and all spread out along the sidewalk of the front loop to wave to our students. Students and families will need to stay in their vehicles to wave as they drive slowly through the loop. We are looking forward to celebrating this tradition in a different way with our students.

There will be no special area classes on this day, since it is a ½ day.

### **We Need Your Help With Arrival - 7:30 a.m.**

Thank you for your patience as we navigate the first week of arrival during hybrid! Please make sure you complete the screener before your child comes to school daily. Another thing that would help us is if your child has his/her backpack ready as soon as we open the door to let them out. The "DROP OFF ZONE" is between the crosswalk (in front of the front door) and the yellow sign. Please do not let your child out of the car until a staff member comes to the car door. We only let students out in the drop off zone for safety reasons.

### **We Need Your Help With Dismissal - 2:00 p.m.**

Again, I need to thank you for your patience. Dismissing hundreds of young children safely takes a long time. Many more families are picking up this year, so our car volume, even with only ½ the students in the building, is up. If you could pull forward (way past the 6 loading spots if your child needs a bit longer to buckle, it will speed up the process for the students (and families) waiting. Thank you for your help!



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## **Virtual Parent Teacher Conferences**

We will be having our parent teacher conferences virtually this year. Since this year is a bit different than anything we've ever experienced before, we are hoping to use this time to get to know your family, hear about your child's strengths and interests. Your child's teacher will also share a bit about the strengths he/she is noticing about your child so far. We are looking forward to continuing to build positive relationships with you.

## **Technology Support For Families**

### **[Technology Tutorial for Students/Families](#)**

Additional resources for technology support can be found on the [Tech Support for Families](#) page on our website. If you are having trouble with your device or connectivity, please send an email to [helpdesk@chelsea.k12.mi.us](mailto:helpdesk@chelsea.k12.mi.us)

## **Connect With Us**

Stay connected with North Creek!

Follow us on Instagram: [NorthCreekElem](#)

Twitter: [@NorthCreekElem](#)

Facebook: [North Creek Elementary](#)

**Positive Behavior Expectations:** Be safe. Be Responsible. Be Respectful. Be Kind.

## **Important Dates**

October 5 Pajama Day

October 6 Hat Day

October 7 Stuffed Animal Day

October 8 Rainbow Day + Virtual Parent Teacher Conferences

October 9 Blue & Gold Day

October 14 Virtual Parent Teacher Conferences

October 30 North Creek Halloween Parade (see above for details)

Go Bulldogs!

Kimberly Gillow, Principal