



## James I. Gibson Elementary School

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Kristian Ryerson, Principal

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September 22, 2020

Good morning Gibson Families,

As many of you know, Distance Learning is an ever evolving experience for students, parents and teachers. We have all learned many things over the past several weeks. I am proud of what our Gibson Teachers have accomplished. When we visit “virtual classrooms” I am amazed at the instruction being presented to our students. I am also amazed at how technically proficient our students have become.

Prior to the start of the school year, various models were presented to the School Board, some of which included weekly professional learning time for teachers.. At this time, we feel it necessary to include a Professional Learning piece to our weekly schedule so that our teachers can continue to provide excellent instruction to our students, yet refrain from working 12-15 hour days.

Currently Clark County School District Teaching Expectations require 60 minutes of live instruction per day in grades K-2, and 90 minutes of live instruction for grades 3-5. As most of you are aware, Gibson teachers are exceeding these minimum expectations and are spending most of the day online with students. They then stay late into the evenings to plan and prepare lessons for our students. I applaud their dedication and commitment to the craft of teaching, yet also worry about the sustainability of these long days (and nights...and weekends).

The District has suggested that schools begin to implement professional learning time on Wednesday afternoons so beginning next Wednesday, September 30th, we will be changing our **Wednesday Schedule** for the remainder of the year. Live instruction will be presented to students in the morning, and students will be assigned independent learning activities to complete in the afternoon. This will provide teachers time to work together Wednesday afternoons in order to continue designing appropriate and engaging distance learning lessons and activities. Hopefully this will allow our teachers to balance their work and home lives in a healthy manner, without interrupting the quality of education we provide to your children.

I have attached a copy of what the new Wednesday schedule will look like. Please see changes in blue font. At this point, all students in grades 1-5 should be reading for a minimum of 30 minutes during the school day and taking AR quizzes. In addition each student should spend 20 minutes a day on Khan Math and another 20 minutes on Khan Reading (or other literacy programs in grades K-2).

Thank you in advance for your flexibility and support,  
Kristian Ryerson, Principal