



Dear Brick Family,

We are grateful for your steadfast partnership as we complete week three of remote learning! Behind the scenes the teachers and administrative teams have been working tirelessly to ensure that we are supporting you and your children in the best ways possible. Early childhood educators enter the field to teach by building strong, trusting relationships with their students and with you. We all miss the ability to do this in person and strive to do so through the medium of Zoom. Teaching via computers is something new to us and to the early childhood field across the country.

Over the past few weeks the teachers have had to learn new technology and to reinvent their curriculum in ways we could never have imagined. They, like you, are all trying to do this as they balance the needs of family, health and safety. It is very difficult, and I dare say, impossible to translate a hands on, play based, relationship driven curriculum into online programming. Yet, we are doing it!

We are leaning into the needs of our families and our students and we deeply appreciate your feedback. We are reading every comment from the surveys and I thank those of you who have reached out to me directly. Please continue to do so: [Amy Warden's Email](#)

As I imagine our community of students post-Covid, I can see children bounding back to school with a sense of security that came from knowing that the adults in their lives have, in one of the most difficult periods in our world's history, cared for them in all ways. To achieve that we are, once again, grounded in our mission and in our values (abbreviated here):

The Brick Church School's mission is to provide an excellent early childhood education, nourishing children's emotional, social, intellectual, physical, ethical, and spiritual well-being through an intentionally balanced approach in an atmosphere of warmth and mutual respect.

Children need to feel emotionally safe so that they can develop social skills and grow cognitively and physically.

In the coming weeks you will see us continue to support students remotely, always in meaningful ways. Our teachers, children and you have all demonstrated resilience, creativity and problem-solving.

Here is what your child will begin to experience:

- a revised schedule that includes a shift in structure to a mix of small, half and whole group experiences. This change is in direct response to your feedback and is in line with our primary goal of staying connected with our students. Our students will get more opportunities to share and more individual attention from their teachers.
- movement class (3-5 year olds)
- music class
- Spanish class (3-5 year olds)
- half group art class (every other week) (3-5 year olds)
- storytime with Amy (alternates every other week; 2 and 3 year olds and then 4, 5 and 6 year olds)
- Chapel
- continued asynchronous videos
- continued activity suggestions

Here is what you will receive:

- your child's schedule in google docs format - a live document that the teachers can update daily- with all zoom and vimeo links embedded in the document.
- continued support from Dr. Rebecca Hershberg (this week is for our parents of 4 and 5 year olds) on Tuesday, April 21st
- two opportunities to attend a webinar for families applying to ongoing schools in the fall on April 23rd.
- an opportunity to attend a webinar for applying to public schools and G&T programs in the fall. Date TBD
- the beginning of a series of parent coffees to come together in community, share and ask questions.

Here is what we are thinking about:

- how online learning can evolve over time in the best interest of our students.
- how we can best support our families and engage in parent teacher conferences
- building out our website to house all of our online resources in one place
- the viability of in-person school in June
- the viability of in-person school in July or August
- opening up the school, whenever we are ready to do so, safely
- a virtual or in person (if possible) culminating event to symbolize the end of the school year and celebrate our time together.
- planning for all possibilities for the 2020-2021 school year during these uncertain times.

Thank you for your trust in us as we continue to care and educate your child from a distance. We pride ourselves in being flexible, curious and open to learning, sharing, and taking care of each other. Brick remains the strong community it has always been and we rely on that strength now and in partnership with you.

Warmly,

Amy
