



Rosalia School District

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We realize these are challenging times for everyone. In an effort to create a sense of normalcy during this uncertain time, it is advised to create a learning atmosphere for your children that is consistent, yet somewhat flexible. You might be tempted to create a detailed schedule for your children. You probably want your kids to learn as much as possible, providing them with a plethora of activities and worksheets to fill their time. But here is something to think about, and this is guidance, not only from me, but from those with greater perspective than myself.

“Our kids are just as scared as we are right now. Our kids not only can hear everything that is going on around them, but they feel our constant tension and anxiety. They have never experienced anything like this before. It may be fun now, but the novelty of spending countless hours at home, will wear off. You will likely see an increase in behavior issues with your kids. Whether it’s anxiety, or anger, or protest that they can’t do things normally. This is to be expected. You’ll see more meltdowns, tantrums, and oppositional behavior in the coming weeks. This is normal and expected under these circumstances.” How we react to these situations will, inevitably stick with our kids far beyond the experience of isolation.

What kids need right now is to feel comforted and heard. To feel like it’s all going to be okay. This might mean that you deviate from “the schedule” and try something different. Play outside, keeping in mind social distancing, and go on walks. My children have been learning how to cook and bake, which has proven to be a lost art. Fortunately, they have a great teacher in their mother. We also have been challenging ourselves in various silly competitions. My youngest even tried to teach me how to do the “Floss” dance. I am thankful there are no videos of that experience. Maybe, play some board games and make your kids watch movies you enjoyed as a child. It’s fun to watch their faces as they give you looks of disbelief in what you found to be entertaining “back in the day.” Make a funny video with your phone and post it to family members on social media. And try to maintain a sense of humor. It is an important part of making that human connection that will help us get through this temporary experience.

“You might be tempted to worry about your students’ losing progress over this time. Every single kid is in this boat and they all will be okay.” When we are back to school, we will all work to help our students close whatever learning gaps have occurred. Our teachers are more-than-capable in helping our kids learn and look forward to the day they get to see your kids back in their classes.

Essentially, your kids’ mental health will be more important than their academic skills at this current time. More importantly, how they feel during this time will be with them long after we get back to normally scheduled programming. So spend quality time with your kids, be honest with them as we go through the challenges before us, and let them know you love them more than they will ever know.

Keeping things in perspective,

Matt McLain

Rosalia Schools

Mission Statement

Children are the future, and Rosalia School District is dedicated to the success of all children. We will:

- PARTNER** with staff, students, parents, and community;
- PROVIDE** a safe and nurturing educational environment;
- EDUCATE** all students to become self-sufficient life-long learners; and
- EMPOWER** all students to be competent, productive, and responsible caring citizens.