

12:20pm Tuesday

I hope everyone is doing well. I know that you must have a ton of questions as to what is going on and I also know that I don't have all of the answers. I just got out of virtual meetings in which the discussions focused on moving forward in the best ways possible to stay on track through April 1st or even possibly through the end of this school year. If you haven't heard, NYC schools are closed until April 20th (this is also true in parts of Virginia and Florida.) One source I read stated that the "peak" of the virus might not even reach the U.S. until May or June?! Some sources said our delayed reaction was an under reaction and some say this is still an over reaction (have you been to a store recently??) Although the memes I've seen are funny and clever, I'm having a difficult time myself sorting through all the external stimuli, so I can only imagine what info your social networking is bombarding you with.

Here's something I read yesterday ...

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2020/03/16/social-distancing-coronavirus/>

Every teacher will approach our new classroom setting in a different way, and I know individual expectations will be inconsistent. I see it as my obligation to finish what we have started; it's either in my DNA (or just part of my OCD) to do so. I will attempt to push forward with the greatest flexibility and understanding as possible (as I have practiced throughout the year). Your experience with APES from this point on will also reflect what your future learning experiences will be; the responsibility for your own individual growth shifts more to you. I will guide you through this as best as possible, but realize that the uncertainty of how this will all culminate is unknown. We will have to wait for decisions that the authorities will make on a day-to-day basis as they navigate our progress while dealing with all associated medical, social, and economical problems attributed to this virus.

Soo.... My intention is to continue through our curriculum from the point that we left off at: the end of the Waste topic. You have already been assigned a study guide that was supposed to be due yesterday. If you already accomplished this, then you are on the right track as to how this all works. If not, then you have until Wednesday night to complete it. I will set up a Google Hangout/Meet and hold a review session driven by questions from that study guide. I ask that you submit the study guide to me by Wednesday night in whatever way works for you (Google share, e-mail, remind, take a picture, etc). Don't worry if you left some of the questions blank – these are the things that we can go over in our review session.

Probably the most important thing I can ask of you is to maintain your integrity and maturity with regards to how we are going to proceed. I'm not sure if true grades are going to be given for the 3rd quarter, but we should continue as if they are. I am going to spend a lot of time altering/developing lessons and materials to help us continue with a learning experience that is fair and meaningful (even writing this note took almost an hour as I'm figuring it all out). I will establish meet times that are as convenient as possible. I was informed that, if we do return to school on April 1st, we will still be given our April break. I am telling you this because right now we really aren't on a break - we are just transitioning to a new platform. You obviously have the luxury of a couple of extra days "off" while us teachers are working to pull it all together.

Feel free to contact me with any concerns, questions, opinions, or input. I will follow up with a time for a Google review session by the end of today.

Be Well!

Mr. Romano