

4-17-20

Dear Tryon Seventh-day Adventist School and Church Family,

I wanted to take a few minutes to update you on how things are going with our school. Despite the trials and hardships we have all been facing these past few weeks, we have also been blessed in many ways. The stay-at-home order began as we were beginning our Spring Break. This allowed our teachers to get our feet under us and start to brainstorm some ideas for how school might “look” in that scenario. Our families have been awesome and patient as we have worked to try to establish a “new normal” with cyberschool. Routine is important in any school setting, but when the world is topsy-turvy, our children need to know that their parents and teachers are there to give them support and stability. Even more than that, we want to keep encouraging them to look to Jesus, and to help them have a relationship with Him that will provide them with reassurance during the trials they will face in their lives. Academically, we are prioritizing the most crucial skills students will need to have going into the next school year, and we are trying to balance these skills with activities that turn the “stay at home” order into an opportunity to do things they might not normally have time to do. They are in the kitchen helping their parents, gardening, playing outside in this gorgeous weather, and trying different forms of art. They are learning how to connect with each other long-distance, and the value of interpersonal connection and having meaningful interaction (and fun of course) with others. We want each of our students and families to know how very much we miss being with each of them every day. Both Mrs. Durby and I love getting to interact with the students through Zoom, but it just is not the same as working with them in-person and just having the opportunity to sit down and chat at school.

>>>>>>>> **Get Your Yearbook Ad by Sunday, April 19!** <<<<<<<<<

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During this time where it is easy for our children to feel disconnected and miss their friends, I have felt a burden to go ahead and finish the yearbook instead of delaying it until the fall. Mrs. Durby and I will be able to ensure they all get their yearbooks in their last (end-of-the-year) care package. They will be able to bring them to school and sign them when school resumes in the fall, but we feel as though having the yearbook in May will help them to feel connected and remind them that their teachers and friends are thinking about them every day. We do not charge our students for their yearbooks, knowing it would be one more burden on families’ finances. One way we can offset that cost and fully fund it is to have ads in the back of the yearbook. I know there are businesses who are struggling right now, but we still want to extend the opportunity for you to have an ad in the yearbook if you would like to. The cost is: ¼ page ads are \$25, ½ page ads are \$50, and full-page ads are \$100. This can be a business ad or an “ad”/note of encouragement to the students (as a group please, not an individual student). The yearbooks will be coming out towards the end of May as we are (hopefully) beginning to rebuild our local businesses and begin to move about a little more. If you would like to purchase an ad, please contact me (Lori Busch) at Lbusch@carolinasda.org or 828-817-1823 by next Sunday, 4/19/20. I can help with ad design, use a business card, or insert an ad you have designed.

We would like to ask that each of you keep our students and their families in prayer. Our children are extremely social, and I know they miss their friends very much. In a time and culture where parents across the country are lamenting being “trapped” at home with their children, our families are working hard to make this a time of good memories and a variety of experiences. When our families look back at this spring, it is our hope that the children will remember this as the spring where they got to garden, cook, build, paint, be with their families, and yes.... cyberschool. A lot of learning is going on with the new school program, but Adventist Education is never just about book-learning – it is about the whole child, and we are doing our best to take this opportunity to help our students grow in every aspect of our lives.

Thank you for your prayers and encouragement!

Lori Busch
Head Teacher, TSDAS