

May 14, 2020

Dear Parents,

As Charles Dickens wrote in *The Tale of Two Cities*, “It was the Best of Times, and it was the Worst of Times.”

The worst is obvious as our world has been turned upside down, and we are being required to live outside our normal lives. However, with time and patience, we are coping and making adjustments on both the home and school fronts. The silver lining is that our children are finding new ways to learn, and they are acquiring skills as independent thinkers. I just read an article that spoke about what it takes to be a super learner. In today’s environment, I thought it would be timely to share these with you. There are six. I’ll share the first three with you today and the final three next week.

We all have enough brainpower to master a new discipline if we use the right tools, approaches, or apply what we learn correctly.

1. Super learners read a lot. Reading is to the mind what exercise is to your body. It gives us the freedom to roam the expanse of space, time, and history, while offering a deeper view of ideas, concepts, and body of knowledge. In a world where information is the new currency, reading is the best source of continuous learning, knowledge, and acquiring more of that currency.

2. Super learners view learning as a process. Learning is a journey, a discovery of new knowledge, not a destination. It’s an enjoyable lifelong process – a self-directed and self-paced journey of discovery. Understanding any topic, idea, or new mindset requires not only keen observation, but also, more fundamentally, a sustained curiosity. Super learners value the process. If something is not clear at first, the thinking is, “I don’t get it yet!” They may not have an end goal, but they seek consistent improvement. They keep mastering new principles, processes, worldviews, thinking models, etc. The “ongoing, voluntary, and self-motivated” pursuit of knowledge is important for their maturity.

3. They adapt a growth mindset. You can’t go wrong cultivating a growth mindset – a learning theory developed by Dr. Carol Dweck that revolves around the belief that you can improve intelligence, ability, and performance. “The illiterate of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn,” argues Alvin Taffler, a writer, futurist, and businessman known for his works discussing modern technologies.

Preparation up-date:

In a recent email, I shared our return to School Protocol.

Each day we are learning more and soon expect Guidelines from the State and the CDC. I feel that we are way ahead of the process and will have an excellent working plan in place come September.

- I have appointed a “Reopening Planning, Preparedness and Response Team” which includes Mr. Misson, Mrs. Larkins, Miss Murray, Mrs. Scheuer, Mrs. Misson, Mr. Bruckmann, Mrs. Murray, Mrs. Malinowski, and myself.
- We have prepared a manual, which includes Mapping out the School Year, Key Steps and Considerations, Safe Place Playbook, and Return to School Roadmap. This manual is a living document with changes made daily. We will share its details as our plans solidify.
- We have installed the four new hand washing sinks in the Lower and Upper School hallways.
- We have prepared a flexible Instructional Plan for 2020-2021.

Happy Birthday to:

5/11 Ava Kong (5)

5/12 Dylan Hobbs (PreK)

Enjoy the “History and Global Studies Fair” and our virtual “Grandparent/Special Relative Day.” Expect another email with the details.

Best to all! Stay safe, healthy and Oak Hill Strong!

Very truly yours,

Joseph A. Pacelli

Headmaster