

Dear Claremont Immersion Families,

We have loved seeing all of our students and are so happy to be connected again - virtually - to all of you! This first week of school, we have had many wonderful positive moments with our students along with some technology challenges.

We are listening to your concerns, and are trying to make adjustments to what we did this first week. Below is an update on Microsoft Teams (MS Teams), and hopefully this change will address some of the challenges we experienced. However, I know we will continue to face issues, and through open communication, we also will continue to collaborate with families and find solutions to support all of our students!

We are so proud of our students' resilience during this time. We have seen them connect with their teachers, and begin their work as students. We are happy to see them learning in Spanish and in English. Thank you so much for your incredible support, patience, and understanding as we have worked through this first week together!

Warmly,
Jessica Panfil
Principal

MS Teams

There have been several concerns regarding MS Teams, including the number of teams that students have to navigate and the lack of "teacher controls" that have caused some classes to be difficult. We are hopeful that the change below will address many of the concerns raised during this week about MS Teams.

Starting on Tuesday, students will be part of only one MS Teams "team." All of their teachers will teach in that "team." This change allows technologically for teachers to have more "control" over the settings, and hopefully will prevent some of the issues that occurred this week. Additionally, this will help students and families only have to look in one place for their synchronous or live classes.

The team will be labeled with "**CIS**" for Claremont Immersion School, so students will know this is the right team. Art, Music, PE, and any other classes will always happen in this team.

A few reminders about "join" v. "meet":

- Even within the one team, students will still need to "join" the meeting their teacher has started.
- Teachers will label their meetings with their name and date. Please help students look for the "join" button.
- Students should not use the "meet" button because this can start a meeting without the teacher.

- We will continue to teach our students to “join” the meeting, and not to use the “meet” button.

Asynchronous Mondays

Our first asynchronous Monday is upon us. Please know that we will slowly add work as we build upon our lessons on Mondays. Currently, we ask students to check out the asynchronous “choices” that are posted on students’ Canvas Courses.

In addition, we encourage students to check out the library and the counseling team on “Casa de Papagayos||Parrots’ Place” Canvas course. Please see below for more information.

Casa de Papagayos Canvas Course

Library Resources - Mr. Power (Librarian) (timothy.power@apsva.us)

Hello Claremont community! My name is Timothy Power and I am excited to start the year as your library and media specialist. The library is gradually opening up its resources and materials to our students and we thank you for your patience and understanding. The library page can be found under “Casa de Papagayos” in Canvas where there will be videos and other materials for students to view during their asynchronous library time. If students finish early, please encourage independent reading or explore our databases and online collections during that time.

Counseling

Welcome back Claremont! Congratulations on finishing the first week of this school year! We are your counselors, Ms. Hancock (cindy.hancock@apsva.us) and Ms. Powell (kayla.powell@apsva.us), and we are very excited to be with you this year. Check out the Counseling page on Canvas under “Casa de Papagayos”. We will be posting guidance lessons for our families to review. We look forward to seeing you soon in your classroom guidance lessons!

Back to School Night - Wednesday, September 16th 6:15 - 7:30

Please plan on joining us for Back to School Night!

- 6:15 - 6:25 - Opening Presentation
- 6:30 - 6:55 - Session 1
- 7:00 - 7:25 - Session 2 (Repeat of Session 2)

Links to the sessions will be sent out on Monday, September 14th.