

August 10, 2020

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Palo Alto Middle School!

Virtual learning is new, and we are all learning together. The following information will serve as a guide to help you navigate all aspects of virtual learning.

During the weeks of August 17 through September 4, 2020, your child can participate in synchronous or asynchronous virtual learning. **Synchronous** instruction is very similar to on campus instruction. It is defined as two-way real time live instruction between teachers and students, through the computer or other electronic devices or over the phone. It requires all participants to be present at the same time, virtually. **Asynchronous** instruction involves far more self-guided student instruction. It is defined as a curricular experience where students engage in the learning materials on their own time, interacting intermittently with the teacher via the computer, other electronic devices or over the phone. It does not require all participants to be virtually present at the same time.

Virtual learners are required to log into the learning management system to participate in class daily and participant in approximately 3-4 hours of virtual instruction, which can include live or recorded instruction each day. Students are expected to participate in learning and will earn grades, so please ensure your child engages daily. The schedule may reflect short periods of live online learning throughout the day followed by time for independent learning activities. Your student must access all assigned courses of instruction each day before 11:59 pm to be counted present for the day.

I encourage you to learn more about the learning resources available to your child by visiting the KISD website at [www.killeenisd.org](http://www.killeenisd.org) and click the Virtual Learning Center button. This site will be available on August 10, 2020. These courses were created to prepare you and your child for virtual learning prior to the start of the school year.

Please visit the KISD website and our campus website <https://schools.killeenisd.org/Page/87> frequently for updated information. I am confident we will work as a team to ensure the success of your child. If you have any questions or we can help in any way, please contact our campus. Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to interacting with your child beginning on Monday, August 17, 2020.

Sincerely,

Kernisha Hill  
Principal