



# COUNTRY DAY

## CONNECTED

[CountryDay.net/go/ConnectED](https://CountryDay.net/go/ConnectED)

### FAMILIAR...CONSISTENT...RELIABLE...SECURE

These words are the key to our transition to remote learning.

Parents and MS/US Students:

I wanted to reach out to the parents of our 5th-12th graders as we near the start of our new remote learning world via [CDconnectED](https://CDconnectED). My main message has nothing to do with technology, but rather with community. CCDS is an amazing community with such strong relationships between teachers, coaches, students and parents. The focus moving forward should be to support each other, and although in different ways, continue to lean on and nurture those relationships. **In 5th-12th grades, we are uniquely positioned to transition to fully remote learning.** Our learning environment is second to none and so much of the learning has always occurred in a blended/asynchronous way. Much of the student's interactions, workflows and collaborations will remain the same. We are not pivoting to try and find ways to integrate technology as a response to this new paradigm, we are simply finding where we need to adjust what we have already been doing for decades.

A great example of this is the fact that teachers and students have access to digital ink. Long ago we recognized the value of writing, sketching, annotating and highlighting in teaching and learning. The fact that all users have access to this will go a long way in terms of teachers screen casting and teaching synchronously by sharing their screen working through samples. Just as importantly students can do all of their messy learning (like calculus) that takes place in our class notebooks, EXACTLY THE SAME WAY THEY HAVE ALWAYS DONE. If you still weren't sure why digital ink and OneNote Class Notebooks were so powerful, think about how limited our collaboration would be in this remote paradigm without them.

My biggest concern is that our abilities will encourage us to try and do TOO MUCH. Less is More is a common mantra for whatever time frame we are working remotely. The transition next week will not be flawless, but the comfort level our users have with secure, enterprise level collaborative tools will help. The most important thing is to keep stress levels low and not expect everything to go flawlessly the first week. Help your students with this. I am sure many of you have been dealing with similar issues personally. Our teachers will be augmenting instruction with screencasts (Asynchronous, watch on your own) video and some Synchronous (Live) classes in Microsoft TEAMS. This is new for many of our faculty and students but they will work and learn together during the first week of school. Like the rest of our infrastructure and Office 365 environment, TEAMS is an Enterprise level tool that is FAMILIAR...CONSISTENT...RELIABLE....and SECURE. It integrates seamlessly with our other powerful tools. These meetings, screencasts and recordings are in a walled garden, available only to our Country Day users. The only thing I am certain of is that things will evolve as we experiment with best practices for remote instruction. Be patient and remember, this is not about high stakes learning....the remainder of the year is not about grades, but the student body at CCDS are high achieving, passionate, committed learners who take responsibility for their learning and I know that they are excited to finish the year strong.

A few Notes:

- I have sent this to students in 5th-12th as well and I am sending a separate message to your students with suggestions on making sure they are ready for Monday and basic Getting Started Information. Talk to them about where they will be working, their dress for when they are in classes where they need to share their WEBCAM. Do they need to be near you/in a public place anytime they are using their webcam are good conversations to have when appropriate.
- Remind them that they need to make good decisions and that the Tech Acceptable Use Policy applies to all of their school interactions.

#### Helpdesk Support:

All requests for assistance needs to be initiated via email at [helpdesk@countryday.net](mailto:helpdesk@countryday.net). This will allow us to get the right person on the issue. Whenever possible, the student should initiate the request. In terms of hardware issues, we will work with you on a case by case basis to keep your student up and running. If you need a replacement power cord or stylus, or a loaner Surface Pro we will be using some type of drive up service for this. Be patient as we figure out the best way to support around 700 users. We work hard to deploy reliable systems and with the help of students taking care of their devices, we will be able to support everyone effectively.