Families, friends, Clevelanders, lend me your ear!

Before COVID-19 we (Clevelanders) were complacent. We were okay with the notion that:
- our property values were decreasing
- our poverty rate was one of the highest in the country
- our infant mortality rate was double the national average
- our homeless shelters were overflowing
- our west side vs. east side disparities and inequities were racially motivated
- our health index was low even though Cleveland has world class medical facilities and
- our wages lag behind many cities of comparable size.

We went about our comfortable and complacent lives – going to the Metro-parks; to the beaches, to the movies, to the Rock-n-Roll Hall of Fame, to the Science Center, to one of Cleveland’s many eateries, to plays, museums and other cultural events. In addition, to sporting events.

Today we are uncomfortable! Experiencing great discomfort has led to some of the most critical, radical, and humane changes in civilization. After all, the creation of the Food and Drug Administration was in response to a discomfort with unhygienic conditions at stockyards and food plants. The Women’s Suffrage Movement was in response to women’s discomfort with the inability to vote. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt enacted the New Deal because of the discomfort of U.S. citizens from the Depression. And Rosa Parks experienced discomfort with the idea of standing on the long bus ride home after a hard days’ work.

Therefore, this is primarily a Thank You letter to COVID19. Thank you for making Clevelanders uncomfortable. Thank you for magnifying our discomfort. Thank you for doing so during a Census year. Moreover, thank you for doing so during an Election year.

COVID-19: ‘Thank You’ for making our discomfort lead us to the VOTING POLLS and to COMPLETE the CENSUS because this is the only way to exact critical, radical and humane changes in Cleveland. [www.vote.org](http://www.vote.org) and [www.my2020census.gov](http://www.my2020census.gov)

Sharon.murray@clevelandmetroschools.org
Summer Chores vs Summer Fun
Performing household chores teaches your teen responsibility. It can also help him/her become a good citizen. Remember, that you're raising a teen who will likely go on to live with a roommate or romantic partner someday. And you don't want your child to be a slob that no one can stand to live with. Don't tell your teen we told you about it!

Click the link to find out more: https://www.verywellfamily.com/over-50-ideas-of-chores-for-teens-2609291

Virtual Summer Camps
It's the end of the 2020-2021 school year already! Can you believe it?? I know I can't! Heading into week 11 it’s important to keep the scholar's engaged. Check out this link for “10 virtual summer camps to keep your little ones engaged”: https://www.popsugar.com/family/virtual-summer-camp-ideas-47451720

Virtual Summer Fun With the Library
Wondering how to keep your scholar engaged over the summer break from home? The Cleveland Public Library is still here for you, virtually, with innovative summer programs for the whole family. Available programs include kindergarten readiness, virtual book clubs and reading challenges, free tutoring for students K-12, ACT and SAT boot camp, writing programs, arts and crafts classes for all ages, even singing lessons! Click here to learn more and fill out an interest form; registration opens soon, make sure to reserve your space. Just because online learning through CMSD takes a break in the summer, doesn’t mean that the fun and learning should be put on hold.

Congratulations Graduating Seniors!!!!!!!
Thank you for being patient while the details of how to celebrate this momentus moment are being worked out. CMSD is working hard to ensure you are appropriately celebrated while staying safe. Click the following link for details: https://www.clevelandmetroschools.org/Coronavirus

Virtual Summer Fun in Cleveland
Summer is approaching with uncertainty, what will we do for fun. According to The Cleveland Visitor, there are several virtual opportunities to take advantage of from home.

1. Virtual Playdates for the kids, brought to you by Northeast Ohio Family Fun
2. Cleveland Metroparks Zoo, Virtual Classroom
3. Akron Zoo, Virtual Daily Lunch and Learn at Noon
4. Storyline Online
5. Great Lakes Science Center, Cruiosity Corner LIVE Daily at 10:30AM and 3PM
6. Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, FREE Online Learning
7. WRHS History at Home
8. Cleveland Museum of Natural History@Home (Mon, Wed & Sat @12:00)

Milestones National Autism Conference
Join parents, professionals and individuals with autism online for the first virtual Milestones National Autism Conference, June 11-16, for world-class speakers and support, all from the comfort of your computer, phone or tablet.
Virtual “Summer Resource Fair” for Families with Special Needs Children

Connecting for Kids is hosting a summer resource fair on Wednesday, June 3rd from 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. Attend and learn about summer camps, tutoring, virtual programs, provider services and other resources.

To Participate:

1. Request to join the CFK Summer 2020 Virtual Resource Fair Facebook Group. Be mindful that access to the group will open on Wednesday, June 3rd at 6:30 p.m.

2. View summer options and interact live with provider representatives on Wednesday, June 3rd from 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m via Facebook.

3. Not on Facebook? Call or text 440-570-5908 (440-907-9130 para espanol), or email info@connectingforkids.org to contact one of our family resource programs and resources.

This is a wonderful opportunity!!!!!!

How to Beat the Summer Slide

by Marie Rippel

Have you heard of the “summer slide”? Unfortunately, it’s not the fun kind of slide you’ll find at a water park or playground. This slide is different. It’s a slide that no mom wants her child to ride.

The summer slide is a decline in reading ability and other academic skills that can occur over the summer months when school isn’t in session. Numerous studies show that kids who don’t read during summer vacation actually slip in reading ability by the time autumn rolls around.

But as parents, we don’t need studies to tell us this, do we? It’s evident in all sorts of situations. For example, if your child plays the violin but stops practicing for three months, his skills will decline more than the skills of a child who continued to practice and play the violin over the summer, right? So what can we do to avoid this common problem?

How to Prevent the Summer Slide

Here’s the secret to preventing the summer slide: Keep learning all summer long. (Now, don’t panic, I’m not talking about year-round schooling, although for some homeschool families, year-round schooling may be a good solution.)

I’m talking about consciously striving to provide learning opportunities throughout the summer to keep kids’ academic skills sharp. Check out the infographic at this link for a big list of ideas to help you put an end to the summer slide!