

WELCOME TO VIRTUAL ON-LINE CLASSES AT THE WCSA!

Starting April 1st a number of our classes will be conducted on Zoom, which is a virtual learning platform. If you have not already registered for these classes, you can register over the phone by calling 203-341-5099 Monday through Friday from 8:30am to 4:30 pm. Payment can be made by credit card or you may mail a check to the WCSA.

Using Zoom should be relatively easy and truly requires next-to-nothing on your part. You need to have an email address. For exercise classes and art classes you will need to be able to connect to the internet. If you do not have a camera on your computer, you will be able to see the instructor and speak to the instructor but the instructor and participants will not see you. If you have a camera the instructor will be able to see you. If you are taking a discussion group class, you can phone into the class using your telephone. You will not be able to see the instructor but you will be able to hear the instructor and the other participants. You can speak and have the instructor and other participants hear you. Zoom classes will run for 40 minutes.

With that said, we all know that most technical endeavors start out bumpy before they run smoothly. So I'm expecting a bumpy ride as we get up to speed and navigate this new way of coming together.

Instructions

While some of you are familiar with Zoom Meetings or “remote learning” many of you are not. You will be able to join in from your MAC or PC computer, iPad, iPhone or tablet and smartphone. All you will need to do on the day and time of your class is click on a link in an email that the instructor will send to you and your class members on the day before your scheduled class. If you are taking a discussion group such as Current Events or Book Talk with Linda Bruce you can call in from your telephone. You will receive the telephone number to call the day before.

-It seems that computers, rather than iPhones, offer the easiest galley view of all participants. And, if you are using an iPhone or iPad, you may need to take a moment and download the app.

- Can you participate from a private space within your home? If you are taking an exercise class please make sure to wear proper shoes and clothing and make sure there is adequate room around you to exercise safely and warm up before exercising.

-Please sign in to class 10 minutes early so you can iron out any glitches (Sound and Video) before we get started.

-Please be aware that participants can see you, so dress like you would like you are in class

-For bathroom breaks, please mute audio and turn off video for your privacy

Remember, this may be challenging. And I'm expecting that it will be quite imperfect for a while, until we all get the hang of it. But I think it's completely worth a try!

Provided below is a link to help you get started. Assistant program manager, Jason Wilson will be holding a practice zoom session on Tuesday, March 31st at 1:00 pm. If you would like to join this practice session please send Jason an email at jwilson@westportct.gov.

I want to thank all of you for your willingness to venture into the virtual world. We are all missing the personal interactions we value so much, but I think this will help us get through this difficult time. And we can all feel like we've stretched ourselves and grown anew...something to be thankful for and even a bit proud of!

Click Link Below for Zoom Tutorial Sessions

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/206618765-Zoom-Video-Tutorials>