
Diana Ketcham

Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education



I hope this message finds you and your loved ones safe and well. Due to the Governor's decision to extend the school closing to May 15, 2020, we will be implementing a next phase of our distance learning plan on Monday, April 27, 2020. Last week, in preparation of this next phase, we held a total of thirty live webinars for elementary teachers throughout the district. This staff development provided additional opportunities for teachers to hone their skills within Canvas, preparing us all for a more extended closure.

At the inception of our distance learning plan, there were a number of features available to us within Canvas that staff and students had not yet utilized. As teachers learn new skills, they are trying new methods of instruction. Though a Google Meet allows for live interaction between students and teachers, this format has its benefits and challenges. As our teachers learn new methods, such as screen casting or pre-recorded video lessons, they now have the ability to select a method that works best for their particular group of students, or for the particular skill they are teaching.

Our students' skill development is of paramount importance to all of us. Our goal is to continue new learning for our students through clearly focused learning targets and outcomes. Please understand there may be lessons that are more effectively delivered to students through a thoughtfully created slideshow as opposed to a teacher trying to lead a live lesson with a small whiteboard or chart paper and markers. Teachers and administrators will continue to work in collaboration with families to gather feedback and monitor the efficacy of instructional methods. We appreciate your support as we continue to try new methods and grow our plan.

The new phase of our plan was introduced to teachers earlier this week. At this time, Principals and Directors are leading grade level and department meetings with all of our staff. During the meetings we will review the components of this next phase, discuss methodology, identify curriculum goals, and fine-tune our implementation plan.



Beginning Monday, April 27, 2020, our elementary students' distance learning program will include the following:

- Daily, Monday-Friday, ELA Instruction with the Classroom Teacher
 - Daily, Monday-Friday, Math Instruction with the Classroom Teacher
- (Utilizing an interdisciplinary approach, Social Studies and Science will be embedded within these sessions.)
- Daily, Monday-Friday, Extra Help Sessions with the Classroom Teacher:
Whole group or small group based upon the needs of the class
 - Daily, Monday-Friday, ELA and Math assignments given by the Classroom Teacher
 - Minimum of one weekly Social Studies/Science assignment given by the Classroom Teacher: Assignment may be project based giving students a few days to complete

In addition to the daily classroom instruction, we are providing a number of other *time-flexible* learning opportunities for our students. Though the sessions with classroom teachers will be at a scheduled time of day, the supplemental pieces will be accessible at any time, enabling families with multiple children, or conflicting work schedules, to sign on at a time that is conducive to the family's schedule.

On Mondays-Wednesdays-Fridays, the Continued Learning course found on the students' Canvas dashboards will provide:

- A skill-based lesson targeting specific grade level skills either designed or vetted/approved by our team of district Reading specialists
- A skill-based lesson targeting specific grade level skills either designed or vetted/approved by our team of district Math specialists
- This Continued Learning course will also provide a weekly science demonstration and/or experiment designed by our district's Science department. This will be updated weekly as the demonstrations and/or experiments are completed.

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Our next phase will also include a daily, district-wide schedule for Special Areas:

- Library, Physical Education, Music, and Art

This Special area schedule will replicate the one students participate in during the regular school year. Each day of the week, the students will be able to attend a special area lesson delivered by the teacher(s) in the school. For some of our students, the special area lesson is one of their favorite parts of the school day. We are pleased to extend our plan to include these daily learning experiences for our students.

For those students who receive special education services or academic intervention, schedules and supports that work around grade level sessions will continue to be in place for them as well. These schedules will be arranged directly with families while also avoiding conflicts with the classroom learning sessions.

As you know, our second trimester concluded with report cards posted to the Parent Portal on Wednesday, April 1, 2020. As we move forward with these plans, our elementary teachers will continue to provide ongoing feedback to students, just as they would during the regular school year. Assignments will be assessed on a Completed Satisfactorily/Not Completed Satisfactorily basis. We do understand each of our students and families is experiencing their own individual, unique circumstances during this challenging time. Families are encouraged to keep an open line of communication with your classroom teacher and principal. If your child or family is in need of supports, extensions, or some kind of modification to the plan, please let us know and we will do our very best to assist.

In an effort to keep our Google Meets as successful as possible for all of our students, teachers have shared a few helpful guidelines that we ask you to please share with your children:

Parent tips to help children prepare for successful Google Meet sessions

- Children should find a room or location with minimal distractions and remain there for entire session
- Children should refrain from eating during Meet sessions
- All other technological devices should be put away or off (ie: cell phones, television, radio, etc.)
- Teacher "Meet rules" should be followed (ie: not using chat, keeping camera on, mute microphone, etc.)

Attached you will find a "Day at a Glance" for each of our grade-levels, kindergarten through fifth grade. Thank you for your continued support of our school and district. We all look forward to seeing your children soon. Please stay safe and well.



All items other than the instructional sessions with the classroom teacher are designed to be flexible for students and families.

Complete Learning Activities /Academic Interventions and Support

10:00-10:30 Kindergarten Instruction with Teacher – ELA

Complete Learning Activities and Assignments

2:15-2:50 Kindergarten Instruction with Teacher – Math

(Social Studies and Science concepts will be embedded within the direct instruction during the week.)

Flexible Schedule:

- **Extra Help** TBD by Teacher
- **Special Area Lesson**
 - Monday ART
 - Tuesday MUSIC
 - Wednesday PE
 - Thursday PE
 - Friday LIBRARY
- **Continued Learning Course in Canvas- Updated M-W-F**

Supplemental ELA and Math Instruction- Science Demonstration/Experiment

1st Grade

All items other than the instructional sessions with the classroom teacher are designed to be flexible for students and families.

Complete Learning Activities /Academic Interventions and Support

10:30-11:05 First Grade Instruction with Teacher- ELA

Complete Learning Activities and Assignments

2:15-2:50 First Grade Instruction with Teacher- Math

(Social Studies and Science concepts will be embedded within the direct instruction during the week.)

Flexible Schedule:

- **Extra Help** TBD by Teacher
- **Special Area Lesson**
 - Monday MUSIC
 - Tuesday PE
 - Wednesday PE
 - Thursday LIBRARY
 - Friday ART
- **Continued Learning Course in Canvas - Updated M-W-F**

Supplemental ELA and Math Instruction-Science Demonstration/Experiment



All items other than the instructional sessions with the classroom teacher are designed to be flexible for students and families.

Complete Learning Activities /Academic Interventions and Support

10:00-10:35 Second Grade Instruction with Teacher- Math

11:15-11:50 Second Grade Instruction with Teacher- ELA

Complete Learning Activities and Assignments

(Social Studies and Science concepts will be embedded within the direct instruction during the week.)

Flexible Schedule:

- **Extra Help** TBD by Teacher
- **Special Area Lesson**
 - Monday PE
 - Tuesday PE
 - Wednesday LIBRARY
 - Thursday ART
 - Friday MUSIC
- **Continued Learning Course in Canvas - Updated M-W-F**

Supplemental ELA and Math Instruction-Science Demonstration/Experiment



All items other than the instructional sessions with the classroom teacher are designed to be flexible for students and families.

Complete Learning Activities /Academic Interventions and Support

10:00-10:35 Third Grade Instruction with Classroom Teacher – Math

12:00-12:35 Third Grade Instruction with Classroom Teacher – ELA

Complete Learning Activities and Assignments

(Social Studies and Science concepts will be embedded within the direct instruction during the week.)

Flexible Schedule:

- **Extra Help** TBD by Teacher
- **Special Area Lesson**
 - Monday PE
 - Tuesday LIBRARY
 - Wednesday ART
 - Thursday MUSIC
 - Friday PE
- **Continued Learning Course in Canvas - Updated M-W-F**

Supplemental ELA and Math Instruction-Science Demonstration/Experiment



All items other than the instructional sessions with the classroom teacher are designed to be flexible for students and families.

9:15-9:50 Fourth Grade Instruction with Teacher-Math

Complete Learning Activities and Assignments

12:45-1:20 Fourth Grade Instruction with Teacher-ELA

Complete Learning Activities /Academic Interventions and Support

(Social Studies and Science concepts will be embedded within the direct instruction during the week.)

Flexible Schedule:

- **Extra Help** TBD by Teacher
- **Special Area Lesson**
 - Monday LIBRARY
 - Tuesday ART
 - Wednesday MUSIC
 - Thursday PE
 - Friday PE
- **Continued Learning Course in Canvas - Updated M-W-F**

Supplemental ELA and Math Instruction-Science Demonstration/Experiment

5TH GRADE

All items other than the instructional sessions with the classroom teacher are designed to be flexible for students and families.

9:15-9:50 Fifth Grade Instruction with Teacher-Math

Complete Learning Activities and Assignments

1:30-2:05 Fifth Grade Instruction with Teacher-ELA

Complete Learning Activities /Academic Interventions and Support

(Social Studies and Science concepts will be embedded within the direct instruction during the week.)

Flexible Schedule:

- **Extra Help** TBD by Teacher
- **Special Area Lesson**
 - Monday ART
 - Tuesday MUSIC
 - Wednesday PE
 - Thursday PE
 - Friday LIBRARY
- **Continued Learning Course in Canvas - Updated M-W-F**

Supplemental ELA and Math Instruction-Science Demonstration/Experiment

Clever Resource Descriptions

General Applications

Book Creator - Book Creator is an easy to use digital book-making tool. It is available for both iPad and the web (including Chrome). Students can use this app to produce and publish their own simple books or comics with images, videos, and audio.



Book Creator

- *Best for grades 2-5*

Brainpop/Brainpop Jr / Brainpop ELL- This website provides students with short animated movies for students in grades K-5 covering the subjects of Science, Social Studies, English, Mathematics, Engineering and Technology, Health, and Arts and Music. There are activities and quizzes paired with the subject matter presented in each video.



BrainPOP Jr.



BrainPOP



BrainPOP ELL

- *Brainpop Jr. best for K-2*
- *Brainpop best for 3-5*
- *Brainpop ELL best for K-5*

Coding Applications

Code.org- Students are able to participate in code tutorials, as well as Hour of Code activities.



Code.org

- *Best for grades K-5*

Kodable- Kodable allows students to create and play coding games that are suitable for all ages.



Kodable

- *Best for grades K-5*

Tynker- Tynker is an educational programming platform aimed at teaching children how to make their own games and programs. Instead of typing the source code, students are able to visually drag blocks of code and snap them together to create a sequence.



Tynker

- *Best for grades 3-5*

Library and Research

Fact Cite- Fact Cite is a database collection providing opportunities to research a variety of topics.



Fact Cite

- *Best for grades K-5*
- *Read aloud options available*

PebbleGo- PebbleGo is a kid-friendly database that covers a variety of research topics in both English and Spanish.



PebbleGo

- *Best for grades K-3*
- *Read aloud options available*

Scholastic Go- Provides easy to use resources to explore world newspapers, videos and more. It is designed to strengthen content knowledge, vocabulary, and core proficiency skills.



Scholastic GO!

- *Best for grades K-5*
- *Read aloud options available*
- *Lexile level available*

World Book Online- World Book is a collection of databases providing opportunities to research a variety of topics.



- *World Book Early Learning best for K-1*
- *World Book Kids best for 2-5*
- *Read aloud options available*

Math Applications

Greg Tang Math- Greg Tang Math is a program that provides great strategies to use when doing mental math. There are online games and board games for children to practice their math skills.



Xtramath- Xtramath is a web program that teaches addition, subtraction, multiplication and division facts which are critical to success in mathematics.



XtraMath

Reading Applications

Bookflix- Bookflix is a digital literacy resource that has more than 120 animated stories that students are able to watch live animation of illustrations while they read along. This platform provides both fiction and non-fiction books designed to strengthen and introduce young learners to real world concepts.



BookFlix

- *Best for K-5*
- *Stories available by Lexile*

MyOn- MyOn provides a personalized reading list based upon a student's personal preferences, interests, and combined with their independent reading level and ratings of books they have previously read.

- *Best for K-5*



myON

Trueflix- Trueflix provides a variety of units in social studies and science. It is a highly-engaging multimedia resource that can be used in many ways.



TrueFlix

- *Best for K-5*
- *Stories available by Lexile*

TumbleBooks- TumbleBook Library is an online collection of animated children's picture books. Similar to MyOn, these online read aloud ebooks will give students more access to different literary resources. There are a variety of categories to choose from, including nonfiction, graphic novels, chapter books, story books, math and language books.



TumbleBook
Library

- *Best for K-5*

Science Applications

Discovery Education- Discovery Education provides award-winning digital textbooks and multimedia content to students in science.



Discovery
Education

- *Best for grades K-5*

Power Knowledge- Power Knowledge helps students gather, describe, and use information to understand the natural and designed world.



PowerKnowled
ge Earth &
Space S...



PowerKnowled
ge Life
Science



PowerKnowled
ge Physical
Scienc...

- *Best for grades 3-6*

Social Studies

Discovery Education- Discovery Education provides award-winning digital textbooks and multimedia content to students in social studies.



Discovery
Education

- *Best for grades K-5*

Newsela- Newsela provides up to date articles on current events from the most trusted names. Ten new texts are published each day.



Newsela

- *Best for grades 2-5*

