

Dear Elementary Staff,

The district will be transitioning to a model where all students in K-12 have an opportunity to participate in live synchronous sessions with their classroom teacher(s) and classmates. All remote and hybrid students will be invited to attend these sessions during our hybrid (in-person) learning days.

At the elementary level, we began piloting this option on a small scale in the fall and expanded our pilot in January. Based on feedback from teachers, students, and families, we are developing a phased approach to live synchronous instruction in all core content areas. This model also varies slightly by grade bands to support the developmental needs of students at the various levels.

In order to support our teachers with this transition, we will be purchasing a few items to enhance the learning experience. In addition, our technology integration specialists have also captured a plethora of tips and tricks from our pilot teachers. These resources will be shared with you early next week.

Phased-In Implementation Timeline

The timeline below does not include small group meetings, individual meetings, etc.

- **(Trial Period)**

- February 1 – February 19**

- Join the pilot teachers and begin to explore how to conduct or begin live sessions with your class. You may start anytime within this window; however, you may want to start by conducting a whole group ELA or math lesson for a minimum of 30 minutes daily. Please communicate with your families regarding the times and links needed for your pilot. You should also inform the REFs if you plan to begin replacing any REF sessions.
 - Kathi Kersznowski and Michael Otto will have a plethora of resources to share with you regarding what has been working in our pilot classrooms. You can also connect with a pilot teacher after reviewing the resources.
 - Advise students/families on the *Do Not Photo* list that their cameras may be turned off. However, they should be encouraged to use emojis and participate in discussions.
 - Inform parents that live sessions will be canceled when you are absent.
 - Begin planning which lesson components may be best for live instruction. The PLCs will be a huge help!

● **February 22**

- Live sessions will begin in K-5. REFs will be reassigned.
- Student participation in live sessions is **strongly** encouraged; however, we must still accommodate families who need to complete this work later in the day.
- We have seen participation increase in our pilot classrooms, so ask parents for flexibility and patience as you embark on this new format.
- Advise students/families on the *Do Not Photo* list that their cameras may be turned off. However, they should be encouraged to use emojis and participate in discussions.
- Inform parents that live sessions will be canceled when you are absent.

Implementation:

- Kindergarten and Grade 1 - Conduct live whole group ELA and math lessons for a minimum of 60 minutes combined (ELA + math = 60 minutes total). Kindergarten and first grade may include their morning meeting, calendar work, or read aloud time into this 60-minute timeframe which may reduce the ELA and math to 40-50 minutes total.
- Grade 2 – Conduct live ELA and math lessons for to 1.5 to 2 hours
 - Math – Minimum of 30 minutes, the remaining time will be for ELA
- Grades 3-5 – Conduct the following live whole group lessons:
 - Math – Minimum of 30 minutes per math class
 - ELA – Minimum of 50-60 minutes per ELA class
 - Social Studies– Minimum of 30 minutes per SS class

(Not to exceed more than 2.5 hours of a student’s day)

Continue planning which lesson components may be best for live instruction. We cannot stress enough how much your colleagues and PLCs can support you!

Thank you for the continued support you have offered to our students and families. Your time, dedication, and flexibility are commendable, and we are fortunate to have such caring and supportive staff.

Warm regards,

The Office of Curriculum and Instruction