

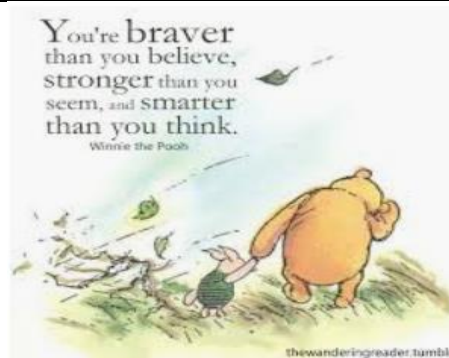


April 2, 2020

Elementary Online Learning Plan

Weekly Update #4

Curriculum Updates



Thank you, once again, for the tremendous energy and resourcefulness you have put into making remote learning successful for our students. As we move forward, we will continue to work together to figure out best practices for learning in this format. The purpose of curriculum updates is to provide new tools, helpful refinement, and needed clarification based upon teacher questions and feedback. As we all adapt to this new learning environment, these updates are meant to provide you with guidance in one consistent message. Despite our goodwill, and best intentions, there will inevitably be moments of frustration. We continue to strive to stay as positive and productive as possible, and to deliver the very best work we can, given the circumstances. So, let's not be too hard on ourselves or on one another. Let's rise to this challenge together, with the creativity, compassion, and resilience that is now, and always has been, at the heart of the elementary level in Washington Township.

Guiding Principles for Elementary Remote Learning:

- Remember, **synchronized instruction, face-to-face interactions, should not be utilized at this time**; however, there are exceptions for CST meetings, related services, PSD, Autism, MD, and ESL instruction. Contact your supervisor if you have questions.
- Students continue to appreciate hearing from their teachers every day and to receiving feedback
- **Lessons with new content should include a self-recorded video or voice over presentation as part of your instruction.** Unless you are providing a read aloud, these mini-lessons should be no longer than 5 minutes of your overall timeframe.
- Continue to review the email of remote learning Dos and Don'ts for additional guiding principles.

Update on State Assessments: All Spring 2020 State Assessments have been canceled.

Update on Daily Emails: Daily emails sent to families/students will now be between 8:00 - 9:30 a.m.

Clarification on Grading: Hot spots finally arrived, but they need more configuration than expected. We hope to have these to families early next week. Kindly **excuse students who may not have had devices or internet from previously assigned work.** If you have something essential to assign, please consult with your supervisor prior to emailing the parent. It would be challenging and overwhelming for

a student to make-up three weeks of work due to their ability to obtain internet access. Instead, you may send them an email welcoming them to the new remote learning environment and informing them that they are starting fresh.

Parent Notification on Grading: An email will be sent to all elementary parents regarding the third marking period grading expectations.

Grade Level Considerations

Grades K-2 ELA: New resources this week:

We've added tools for students to use during reading and writing to our Team files. The goal is to have students reference the same classroom tools repeatedly during reading and writing, to develop confidence and proficiency. All tools have been added to the Seesaw District Library; we'll also include direct Seesaw links in the Team folders for easy access. Feel free to contribute tools that you've used which have been helpful for your students, and if there's a resource that you need, reach out to Beth Neiderman. As we move forward with our curriculum, we'll add to the tools in each folder.

Here's where to find uploaded tools:

- In Teams, click on *WT Elementary Schools*
- Next, click on the hidden channel *ELA Resources*
- Go to Files, and click on *K-2 Resources*
- You'll find two folders: *Tools for Writers*, and *Tools for Readers*

Here are the tools you'll find in each folder:

- Tools for Writers: This includes electronic word walls for K, 1, + 2, Mentor Sentences for 1+2, and Reading Response Paragraph Frames for Grade 2.
- Tools for Readers: This includes a Retell Anchor Chart, Oral Retelling Chart for Fiction, Written Retell Chart for Fiction, and Nonfiction Summary Charts.

Grades 3-5 ELA (Wit and Wisdom Teachers):

The Instruction of Wit and Wisdom lessons in this new format requires some adjustments.

- Most importantly, the completion of End of Module Tasks will NOT be required because of the challenges presented within the tasks in this remote learning format.
- Pacing must also be relaxed. Lessons may span up to 3 lessons if needed. Keep in mind, however, using a single text for an extended time period can become laborious. To minimize this, make instructional decisions by keeping the fidelity of the program when modifying.
- Use the Focusing Question Task as the goal for each Learning Arc for direction. Refer to the single page Wit and Wisdom Module 3 and 4 Synopsis Overviews posted in the ELA Grades 3-5 Files for focus standards. Providing students practice with skills in the Land/Wrap activity is your goal for each day. Emphasis on the Learn section of each lesson also provides clarity in lesson planning.
- Alternating reading and writing activities can provide students some variety.
- Communication with each other in the ELA Gr 3-5 TEAM to assist each other and problem solve is encouraged. Files also contain necessary resources created for remote learning.
- Students will need to reference e-versions of the core text for lessons. Feel free to contribute ideas and lessons.

Grades 1-5 Math:

Updates sent earlier this week:

- Math Boxes: Math Boxes are an effective tool for spiral review of standards (Repeated), practice with new skills (Introduced), and pre-assessing new skills (Preview). At the end of the Math

Toolkit, you will find charts that outline math box pages for each grade and identify each as REPEATED, INTRODUCED, or PREVIEW of skills. Feel free to use REPEATED and INTRODUCED problems as part of your daily assignments or for progress monitoring. However, kindly do not assign them all at once. Choose only targeted problems that meet your students' needs or assign a few problems over a length of time. Refrain from assigning PREVIEW problems that may cause stress. In general, it is important that students are not completing too many problems each day. Assigning a total of 3-5 independent practice problems, depending upon complexity of skill, is appropriate for at-home learning.

- **Study Guides:** Many of you are at the end of a unit and have used the study guides for review or progress monitoring. If you have not done so, consider breaking up pages over a few days, reducing the amount of problems assigned (often there are several problems that assess the same standard), and offering video instruction along with sections. Since we are not formally testing students at home, please refer to problems as "review" or "practice" instead of "a study guide" to not cause stress to families. If you already assigned a study guide in a different manner, kindly use this protocol in the future.
- **Unit Tests:** At this time, please do not assign the unit tests to students. Use data embedded throughout lessons for progress monitoring.

Grades K-5 Social Studies:

Social Studies educational resources are posted in a dedicated channel in Teams. The resources are organized within grade level folders. Thank you for your contributions and collaboration.

- **Scholastic has provided free access to all of their BookFlix and TrueFlix resources.** However, it was discovered that until you access **one** BookFlix book through the *Scholastic Learn at Home* link, it will always ask you for a username and password. Once you have accessed one book through this link, you will never be asked for a username or password again for either BookFlix or TrueFlix resources. After following the steps outlined on the Social Studies Team Post, all the links provided in the Social Studies Team will work without needing special access. Please remember students need to do this as well. This may be accomplished by assigning them to read/listen to a BookFlix book through the given link.

SCLD/POR:

- ARC Trainings are being planned to support Unit 4. Additional information will be provided through our group email regarding date, times, and content.
- Anyone in SCLD/POR using Edmark 1 or 2 with a student, please contact Tricia Holmes. We are looking at online materials to support the learners and need the names/number of student users.