



May 7, 2020

## Elementary Online Learning Plan

# Weekly Update #7

### Curriculum Updates



A special thanks to all WTPS educators and nurses. Your dedication and support to our students is deeply appreciated. As educators, we're used to being prepared. If a student is struggling with material, we have a plan. If a child has a challenging home life, we have a plan. If a child falls on the playground, we have a plan. And even when our best laid plans go awry, we're used to being able to handle the situation and make it through. When it comes to COVID-19, no one could have predicted how quickly this would transform our lives, and we still do not know how this virus will continue to impact our community. And yet, in an unprecedented and unplannable situation, our WTPS staff has been amazing! We thank you for all you do to support students and families!

#### **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.
- Synchronized sessions, face-to-face interactions, **may be utilized for weekly greeting check-ins**. This will be for non-instructional purposes using WebEx or Microsoft Teams.
- Students continue to appreciate hearing from their teachers every day and 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.

**Reminder on Daily Emails:** Daily emails sent to families/students will occur between 8:00 - 9:30 a.m. Kindly refer to the guidance emailed from your principal and the information from the latest Postmaster letter from Joe Konecki regarding Yahoo, Verizon, and AOL accounts. Please know we are working on other solutions for K-2 teachers to use for communication. Until further notice, kindly post your plans on your Teacher Page beginning on Monday. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

**Free Resources:**

A plethora of online programs have been made available free of charge during remote instruction; however, many of these free options do not fully address our needs for differentiation, teacher interaction, and/or individualization in meaningful ways to support our curriculum. Any interest in specific programs should be explored with the knowledge and approval of a curriculum supervisor. Many considerations must be made when leveraging the use of a new program including long-term sustainability, program appropriateness, and district-wide consistency. Thank you for your continued support in this area.

**Grading:** Our grading configuration will remain the same for the fourth marking period.

**Special Area Teacher Grading Guidance:** Further guidance will be sent to you from your department supervisor.

**Update Reminders:** All updates and elementary communication can be found at <https://www.wtps.org/Domain/2340>.

## Grade Level Considerations

**Grades K-5 Teachers:**

As the BSI math and reading teams must rely primarily upon digital records to complete the BSI screening process, kindly **update your benchmarks on SharePoint by May 11**. Please include all data collected **prior to remote learning**. Any data that was supposed to be recorded after March can be left blank on your spreadsheets. Your support in this important process is most appreciated. Please reach out to Janine Ryan with any questions.

**Grades 3-5 Spelling Teachers**

Good news concerning digital Spelling Connections...below is the link and log-in to access a free trial of the Teacher and Student Edition eBooks.

Spelling Connections:

Go to ZB Portal link - <https://my.zaner-bloser.com/portal/login/teacher>

Username/Email: [spcn16@zaner-bloser.com](mailto:spcn16@zaner-bloser.com)

Password: ZBQ419

The trial will last for the remainder of the school year and gives access to all grades, so the same password will work for any teacher. **Kindly do not make any changes to the password as it will lock others out.** Once you log-in, click on the "My Products" tab in the upper left corner. Grades 1-8 will appear. You will see options for student access, games, and reports. However, please do not assign a class or roster students at this time, since students have not utilized the online program prior to remote learning. We may possibly obtain personalized access for the online portal beginning next year. For now, it can simply be used for teacher reference and to snip/copy to online platforms for student reference. Please reach out to Janine Ryan with any questions. Thank you!

### **Grade 2 Science Teachers:**

**This year, Grade 2 is again partnering with Duffields Farm Market.**

Tracy Duffield has created 2 Videos for Science Lessons. They mimic the lessons that she has presented in her prior visits to our schools last year. Refer to last week's Update for specifics. We hope to share a Duffield's e-Fieldtrip Video in the near future for grades K-2.

### **Grades K-5 Social Studies Curriculum Committee Members:**

Social Studies Curriculum Committee members are commended for their diligence and dedication as they continue the process of selecting a new K-5 social studies program for the 2020-21 school year.

They concluded the process of investigating different social studies programs through digital presentations and exploration activities. Next week they will participate in grade-level virtual reflection discussions, followed by providing individual feedback through the completion of a survey.

### **Social Studies Grade-Level Committee Reflective Discussions:**

**Thursday May 14<sup>th</sup>**

- o **Fifth grade- 10-10:45**
- o **Fourth grade- 11-11:45**
- o **Third grade- 12-12:45**
- o **Second grade- 1-1:45**
- o **Kindergarten and First Grade- 2:00-3:00**

Teachers may inform their students' families of their unavailability during the time they are participating in their grade-level committee discussion.