



June 5, 2020

Elementary Online Learning Plan

Weekly Update # 9

Curriculum Updates

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.

Update on Daily Emails: Daily emails sent to families/students will occur between 8:00 - 9:30 a.m. The issue with Yahoo, Verizon, and AOL accounts has been resolved. Therefore, teachers of K-2 students can resume emailing parents or posting on Seesaw.

Grading:

Report card grades are due no later than 10 a.m. on June 18 so drafts can be created.

Corrections must be submitted no later than June 19.

Report cards will be emailed to families on June 22.

World Language grades- All students will receive an "S" for Satisfactory

Update Reminders: All updates and elementary communication can be found at

<https://www.wtps.org/Domain/2340>.

End of Year Close Out Information:

- Principals have been sharing directions about ordering supplies.
- Classroom teachers will be filling out student digital cards for grouping; this will be done through a program called Class Composer. The program mirrors our former paper process. More information will be coming out soon.
- Principals are issuing weekly schedules for the drop off and pick up of student materials from June 10-18.
- *Grade 5: Moving Up to Middle School Ceremonies* will include video clips compiled together by each school and will take place on June 17. The final recording for each school will be posted on the district website.

Grade Level Considerations

Suggestions for activities for the last days of school:

- According to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards in Social Studies, students should understand that certain character traits can help individuals become productive members of their community. During the last days of school, consider encouraging students to make an **“All About Me” book**, revealing their own interests and special talents, using a digital platform such as Flipgrid. The students’ books would then be shared with their classmates. Students might identify similarities and differences among classmates and compare and contrast classmates’ personal preferences and talents. In addition to a making a special keepsake, students will recognize that we are all unique and different and we can learn from one another.
- Consider a **Reflect ‘n’ Sketch activity**. Students can reflect on their situation, the situation of the world, of our country, of this pandemic... whatever feels important to them. Students can use words, drawings, magazine pictures, internet images, color, blurbs, quotes, etc. to reflect. This leaves the door open to all types of learners as they reflect on learning or life.
- Make the end of the year memorable with a **phonics indoor scavenger hunt** for K-2 students to enjoy! This digital activity encourages students to complete “phonics challenges” by finding items around their home that match each phonics rule.
- **Read, read, read...**get a jump start on summer reading by offering kids the opportunity to choose books to read for pleasure. You might share your own reading favorites and encourage students to make and share lists of books they want to read this summer. Students can also create a “reading commercial” featuring a book they loved this year to recommend to their classmates. Use Epic, virtual leveled bookshelves, or get students familiar with some of the free resources offered by the Margaret Heggan library.
- **Invite students to record a short 20-30 second video** naming their favorite memory from this school year or telling the best part of being in this grade. Put all the videos together to create an end of the year video collage. This will also make a great introduction to the grade level for next year’s class.
- **Write a letter to your future self**. The end of the year is a great time writing to our future selves, setting goals, making predictions, talking about family, dreams, and expectations. Since we are doing this letter virtually, why not add a fun little digital twist to this activity. Ask students to send the messages to you in an email, and you can immediately forward the email back to them and schedule it to send on this same day the following year.
- **You can create a series of topics** under which students can post, or you can have them post some “greatest hits” from the school year. The greatest hits could include the following and more:
 - An assignment they are particularly proud of
 - A funny moment from class
 - A funny Mr. or Mrs. _____ moment
 - A great memory from the class
 - A post teaching someone else something they learned
 - A “Passion Project” section where students can create posts about topics they love.Throw the list out to the students, and they will help brainstorm ideas for other post topics.

- **Turn students into teachers:** Start by assigning your students a topic to teach the rest of the class. Each student will then research the topic, prepare teaching material and an activity to present to the class, and then assess their classmates' learning and provide feedback afterward. Depending on what grade you teach, you might want to provide some ideas or structure for the types of activities your students might try. *And who knows?* Maybe your students will surprise you with some good ideas for teaching online.
- **How to Succeed Brochure:** Your students might not realize it, but they have a lot to offer kids a year younger than them who are about to enter their grade. The end of this school year might be disrupted, but your students still have the most thorough knowledge and experience of what it is like to be in their grade and be a member of your classroom. Have your students apply this knowledge by creating a brochure for next year's incoming students. They can share tips for the best ways to tackle assignments, their favorite lessons from the year, and how to overcome challenging tasks. This activity is a great opportunity for students to review what they have learned and to think about their learning on a metacognitive level.

Grades K-2:

Seesaw resources may be unavailable for short periods of time in mid-August. We are doing what we can to ensure uninterrupted teacher access.

Elementary Math Teachers:

Several new relevant EM4 math resources are available through the EM4 VLC. If you haven't already created an account, please consider doing so in order to access new and helpful EM4 materials/documents that can focus your instruction for the last EM4 Unit. The website for the EM4 Virtual Learning Community is:

<https://vlc.uchicago.edu/>. Once a member, many documents, such

as a document identifying the priority lessons in the last unit for each grade, are available.

Grade K-5 Science Teachers:

Feedback for science kit replenishment has indicated that no items need replenished due to our remote learning. Several committee members were consulted. If there are consumable items that have been depleted, contact other teachers in your building or grade level to attempt to reallocate items for next year and confirm an actual need in your building. If that is not possible, be sure to reach out to Beth Hinman in the very near future. Please note: Vouchers for live specimens which were not used this year will be reissued.

Grade 4 ELA (Wit & Wisdom) Teachers:

Please be aware that the pdf of Walk Two Moons which is posted in TEAMS does not directly match page numbers /chapter numbers from the edition of the physical novels that we currently use.

Also, in lieu of reading/ recording sections of the text by chapter for remote lessons, feel free to utilize any of the several YouTube videos posted by Dan Graham. Be aware that not every one of those videos labeled by chapters correlate directly. Thank you, Danielle Dancer from Wedgwood for creating a correctly numbered version of this text. It is now also posted in TEAMS.