

Parent Tips For Distance Learning

Teaching students from home can be a new and sometimes overwhelming responsibility. We want to give you some tips for helping your child be successful at home. These tips are for you to use as a guideline. With Distance Learning, there is not a one size fits all and you will need to adapt to the needs of your family.

- It is important to establish a routine with your kids. Your child's time at school is very scheduled, and he or she has a routine each day. Everybody's schedule will be different depending on your schedule as well as the time you and your kids will be home. So you may need to be creative but consistency is the key.
- As best you can, try to establish a daily routine and a set time that you meet each day for learning. For example, you may have your kids meet from 9:00-1:00 pm. During that time is when they may work on their school assignments, art, music, PE and other things. Four hours is not a requirement. You may need more or less time depending on your family. The idea is to have a set time each day that you do school work.
- Have a designated place you meet each day. You can certainly provide breaks or break-up the time between morning, afternoon and evening. Whatever you decide...once again, just do your best to be consistent.
- If students are working independently, please ask for them to explain what they've been working on as well as follow up questions to push their thinking (and your understanding) much deeper. For instance, if they're reading a story, asking them what is taking place in the plot, if the story ended the way they expected, etc., can push students to think more critically about the work they are completing. When in doubt, "who," "what," "when," "where," "how," and "WHY," can function as great open-ended questions to encourage thinking from and dialogue with your child.
- Praising students & rewards: Make sure you are taking the time to praise your child as he/she completes their work. The more often you share authentic praise, the more likely they are to continue working diligently on their school work. Consider establishing a daily reward for completing work. Here are some ideas for rewards: earning television time, game time, make play dough, cook a special treat together, or use ideas that your child likes for rewards.
- Once we begin to transition to more of a blended (which includes online learning) learning model, please help remind your child to check their emails at least twice a day. This will be the main point of contact for the teachers and their students. Once we get going, it is also advisable to help students keep their email inboxes organized by deleting unneeded messages.

- If your child has a packet, go through the packet with them and help them organize it. If tasks or assignments are not organized daily, go through it and break down the tasks daily. This will help you and your child to not become overwhelmed. Also remember to do the best you can. This is new for all of us, so we'll learn together.
- A lot of the first week of Distance Learning will be learning how to best communicate with your child's teacher(s), how to organize your days, and working to establish expectations. Just like the beginning of school there will be a learning curve. **Don't panic! We will work with you and help you figure it out.**
- Communicate with your child's teacher. They each have office hours and they will get back with you. Remember this is new to the teachers as well.
- Turning in work:
 - Especially as we move to a blended learning model with our 2nd through 5th grade students, we will be encouraging students and families to return work electronically. Your child's teacher will also have more information about this, but some ideas for returning work electronically include:
 - You can download scanner apps on your phone, scan each document and email, text or upload into your child's Google Drive. Once a document is in Google Drive, it can then be shared with your child's teacher. A few scanning apps that are free and work really well would be DocScan and Adobe Scan. Google makes a Google Drive app that also allows users to scan a document right into their Google Drive as well.
 - You also could use your phone's camera to take a picture of the document, which could then be attached to a text, an email or a message in the Remind app or other classroom communication platform to send to your child's teacher.
 - Some classrooms will be using Google Classroom, which assigns work to students electronically. All students have to do is submit their work when it is complete and it will automatically be sent back to his/her teacher for feedback.
 - We will still continue to accept the physical paper packets back as well. We will have staff available each Friday to collect packets at Cedaredge Elementary School from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and at the Cory Store from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. We do encourage you to try to return on Fridays so that packets can sit the required 72 hours before being distributed to teachers for feedback.
- If you have any questions, concerns or comments, please let us know! We're eager to work alongside you to grow and improve our distance learning to the benefit of all our students.