

DISTANCE LEARNING: MIDDLE SCHOOL OVERVIEW

We know that learning takes place in many different forms and can take place in many different settings. Our upcoming Distance Learning experience is the very type of experience that our middle school students are prepared to take on and to grow from, independently, with their peers, and even with their families.

Over the course of this school closure, students will be invited to engage in learning experiences that will stretch their thinking and will encourage new ways of doing things in each of their classes, even though they will not be physically present at school. Students will learn through a blended learning model, which includes asynchronous learning as well as synchronous, real-time interactive sessions with their teachers and classmates. Each of these learning experiences may be followed up with appropriate homework or a formative/summative assessment to confirm that the students have engaged appropriately with the content and that their understanding of the content supports their progress toward the identified target standards.

The clear goal for these days is to be analogous (comparable) to the students' experiences on typical days at school: to interact, to engage, to grow, and ultimately, to learn.

Role of Parents

As Middle School students are still developing their independence, a teacher-parent partnership is necessary for students to engage in Distance Learning tasks and, in some cases, to access on-line resources. The learning tasks and activities provide direction and support to families. We recognize that parents may have more than one child to guide; therefore, we have framed the learning experiences to require minimal parent involvement.

As a parent of Middle School students, we ask you for the following support:

- Make every effort to help your child access the internet as often as possible in order to download assignments and electronically turn in homework.
- If you are unable to access the internet, be sure your child's teachers are aware so that they can make arrangements for paper copies.
- Monitor Schoology updates and be sure to check in with your child daily about the Distance Learning tasks, activities, and assessments they are working on.
- Designate a place where your child will work independently on his/her assigned tasks.
- Ask your child to provide a brief summary of the learning they are engaging in for each class to ensure their understanding of the content and of the process they are being asked to engage in to demonstrate their learning.
- Monitor your child's deadline calendar and support them in submitting assignments according to the established deadlines.
- Remind your child to email or call their teachers if your child or you have questions or if you need extra help and support. Our faculty will be on hand to help and support you in a timely manner.

Middle School Distance Learning Plan

Content and Timing:

The Distance Learning Plan in Middle School will include engaging experiences for English, Math, Science and Social Studies (Core Classes) and also for their Art, Computer, FACS, Music, Tech, P.E., Health, Explore and Agriculture (Exploratory Classes).

- Limit total on-task time to 15-20 minutes per class per day.

Asynchronous Interactions:

- Teachers will communicate with students: learning expectations, provide resources, collect assignments, and provide feedback through Schoology.
- Students will have weekly Learning Targets in each subject area.
- Schoology will be updated for every lesson. Lesson updates will be ready for access following the Zoom class period the day of the lesson. When a learning experience includes a project or extended application of learning over multiple days, lesson updates will be posted for multiple upcoming sessions. Lessons will include:
 - Teachers will provide updates throughout the week that will take on several formats:

- Students know what learning they need to accomplish for that day.
- Continuity of learning that is clearly connected to their learning in the prior class and will connect to the learning in the upcoming class.
- A written explanation and/or recorded video to introduce, explain tasks, or provide instruction for each lesson.
- Discussion forums using Schoology and email.
- Digital/scanned resources, assignments, etc.
- If students are required to engage in a project or extended application of learning, the project will be broken down into smaller actions/outcomes with deliverables/check-ins for each lesson.
- Teachers will respond to student and parent emails/questions/phone calls in a timely manner.

Synchronous Interactions:

- Students will engage in synchronous, or real-time, engagement with their teachers and classmates using Zoom.
- Teachers will engage in real-time with students in the following ways:
 - **Individual:** Students request help by making appointments with their teachers or counselors on an agreed upon time.
 - **Scheduled Office Hours:** Students can join office hours to ask questions or discuss learning with their teachers and classmates during specific times established by teachers using Zoom or Schoology or email or by phone.
 - **Mini-lessons:** Students may participate in real time mini-lessons on specific topics during specific times established by teachers.

Assessment and Progress Monitoring:

- Non-graded formative and practice tasks:
 - Students will provide evidence of learning for each subject and lesson as a check for understanding.
 - Students will have the opportunity to provide feedback to each other.
 - Teachers will provide students with ongoing and regular feedback on their evidence of learning.
- Graded summative tasks:
 - Students will participate in graded summative tasks at the end of a learning sequence.
 - Graded summative tasks that are performance-based will include a rubric and/or checklist shared with students as part of the task overview.
 - Teachers will provide feedback to students at regular checkpoints on tasks that extend over multiple lessons.
 - Students will have the opportunity to revise their tasks following a reflection and/or relearning task designed by the teachers when submitted work does not meet the Distance Learning Target.

SCHEDULES: Students will be expected to participate in their classes following the schedule below as closely as possible. This schedule allows teachers to have live interaction if they choose to do so on certain days. It also provides a space for students to ask questions and get support from teachers/paras each afternoon.

We understand some students will not be able to follow the schedules specific timeframe every day but they will still be expected to review the material and complete assigned tasks. Our intention is to record any live feeds and archive online group discussions that students may access later.

We will evaluate the effectiveness of the schedule after the first week of distance learning and make adjustments if necessary.

5th Grade Teacher *Zoom* Virtual Schedule:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7:30-10:55	Reading	Math	Advisory	Science	Social
12:05-12:45	Computer	Art	Explore	Music J	Music R/ Gym

5th Grade Student Schedule:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7:30-8:00	Questions/ Homework Time	Questions/ Homework Time	Questions/ Homework Time	Questions/ Homework Time	Questions/ Homework Time
8:00-8:20	<i>Zoom with Advisory</i>	<i>Zoom with Advisory</i>	<i>Zoom with Advisory</i>	<i>Zoom with Advisory</i>	<i>Zoom with Advisory</i>
8:30-11:00	Work on core class work: Reading, Math, Science	Work on core class work: Reading, Math, Science	Work on core class work: Reading, Math, Science <u><i>10:30 Weekly Zoom Check-in with Advisory Teacher</i></u>	Work on core class work: Reading, Math, Science	Work on core class work: Reading, Math, Science
11:00-12:00	Lunch Break	Lunch Break	Lunch Break	Lunch Break	Lunch Break
12:05-12:45	Exploratory Classes	Exploratory Classes	Exploratory Classes	Exploratory Classes	Exploratory Classes
12:50-3:00	Work on class work: Language Arts, Social Studies	Work on class work: Language Arts, Social Studies	Work on class work: Language Arts, Social Studies	Work on class work: Language Arts, Social Studies	Work on class work: Language Arts, Social Studies

6-8th Grade Teacher Schedule:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7:30-8:00	Teacher Prepare Time	Teacher Prepare Time	Teacher Prepare Time	Teacher Prepare Time	Teacher Prepare Time
8:00-8:20 <i>Daily Advisory Meeting by Zoom</i>	ALL Advisories	ALL Advisories	ALL Advisories	ALL Advisories	ALL Advisories
8:25-10:40 <i>Core Zoom Class times or Zoom Office Hours</i>	English/EL	Math	Science	Social	“Office Hours” <u>Cromie</u> 5 th hour, 8 th grade math <u>Rasmussen</u> 3 rd & 7 th hour Science
12:05-3:00 <i>Explore Zoom Class or Zoom Office Hours</i>	Computers	Art	FACS	Tech	Health
					Gym
					Music/Ag

5th-8th Grade Student Zoom Schedule:

<u>Times</u>	<u>5th Grade</u>	<u>6th Grade</u>	<u>7th Grade</u>	<u>8th Grade</u>
7:30-8:00	Homework/Questions time	Homework/Questions time	Homework/Questions time	Homework/Questions time
8:00-8:20	Advisory	Advisory	Advisory	Advisory
8:25-8:55		1st Hour	3rd Hour	2nd Hour
9:00-9:30		2nd Hour	4th Hour	3rd Hour
9:35-10:05		6th Hour	7th Hour	4th Hour
10:10-10:40		7th Hour	8th Hour	5th Hour
10:50-12:05		Lunch/Study Break	Lunch/Study Break	Lunch/Study Break
12:05-12:25	Exploratory (5th Hour)	Homework/Questions time	Homework/Questions time	Homework/Questions time
12:25-12:45	Exploratory (6th Hour)			
12:50-1:10		Exploratory (3rd Hour)	Homework/Questions time	Homework/Questions time
1:10-1:30		Exploratory (4th hour)		
1:35-1:45		Homework/Questions time	Exploratory (1st Hour)	Homework/Questions time

<u>Times</u>	<u>5th Grade</u>	<u>6th Grade</u>	<u>7th Grade</u>	<u>8th Grade</u>
1:45-2:05			Exploratory (2nd Hour)	
2:10-2:30		Homework/Questions time	Homework/Questions time	Exploratory (7th Hour)
2:30-3:00				Exploratory (8th Hour)