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Q&A about Online Home Instruction for Parents

How can we extend learning if the school is closed?

Our goal will be for students to take advantage of many technology resources that are available for students. We have asked teachers to provide activities during this school closure using the communication tools that you have likely used this year. Electronic learning will take the place of regular classroom instruction with the intent to support student learning. Assignments are intended to reinforce or extend learning while at home. Parents will be asked to help by encouraging their child's participation in learning while at home for this school closure. Teachers have prepared approximately 2 hours per day of instruction and activities.

What can I expect each day?

Before the first day of Home Instruction you will receive a letter from your child's principal(s), which will have brief instructions about how online Home Instruction will look. However, classroom teachers will provide the most relevant details related to the Home Instruction assignments. Students will be instructed to check their teacher's website or Google Classroom. These checks should occur daily, as teachers will be posting updated assignments and materials.

What if my student doesn't have a computing device or internet connection?

Students can use personally-owned devices (phones, laptops, desktops, etc.) or district-issued iPads or Chromebooks, upon request, as available.

Students and/or families can visit their child's school on Monday, March 16 between 9 a.m. and noon to pick up a Chromebook, if needed.

Students in all grades who DO NOT have access to the Internet at home should have communicated this to the classroom teacher or the building principal. Your child will receive a hard copy of online activities and other supplementary materials. These materials can be delivered to your home by request. Please contact your school on Monday, March 16 between 9 a.m. and noon if you would like a hard copy of learning materials.

How will my child receive grades?

Students may receive 1:1 feedback about reading choices, assignments, etc. through phone conversations with the teacher, audio/video recorded feedback, or written feedback. Assignments will be submitted by students via e-mail, posted on Google Classroom, or through other means to be determined by the teacher.

What about families who need childcare during a school closure?

We ask that all families make contingency plans for childcare during an extended school closing. Tuesday, March 17 is a closure day for the purpose of allowing families to make plans without expectation of online Home Instruction. The district will be looking to find facilities or programs that may still be operational, but this is likely going to be a challenge as social distancing is a means for preventing spread of the virus. If we are able to locate a daycare provider that is open, we will let you know via our website.

What if families have other needs during the school closure?

The district is currently working with the Readington Township Committee and the Readington and Hunterdon Offices of Emergency Management. If families need additional assistance and resources, we will be posting more information on our website and reaching out to those who may need assistance.

What do teacher “office hours” mean?

Teachers are expected to have office hours during each online Home Instruction day. This means teachers will:

- Check in on students via email or phone
- Be available on Google Docs
- Hold a Google Meet with a class
- Chat with students via Google Chat
- Phone calls with students or parents

This will also be the time where teachers may call parents or parents may reach out to teachers. The best mode of initial communication will be email. Phone calls can be set up after contacting via email first.

How can I talk to my children about COVID-19?

There are some resources we have found that could assist parents in talking to children about COVID-19. Those resources are listed below:

[Click here](#) for a handout from the National Association of School Psychologists

[Click here](#) for a link to the CDC

You may also view your school counselor’s website for more information.

Questions during the school closure?

If you have any questions during the school closure, please email:

- schoolclosure@readington.k12.nj.us