

March 26, 2020

Dear OASD Intermediate Families-

On behalf of the entire OASD staff, thank you for your support over the past week. We are especially appreciative of your patience as our District shifts to virtual learning for all students. As the closure of our District's schools extends into April, this letter intends to clarify critical questions that have arisen after the first few days of virtual learning for our students, teachers, and families.

The OASD communicated late last week that Mondays would serve as teacher planning and collaboration days, beginning March 30, 2020. What does this mean for my child(ren)'s virtual learning?

- Teachers will not be directing or assigning any virtual learning on Mondays, beginning March 30, through the duration of this extended school closure. Students will not be expected to participate in virtual learning on Mondays unless previously scheduled with a teacher as part of their Individualized Education Plan (IEP).
- Teachers are going to use Mondays to streamline communication to families, develop virtual lessons for the week, provide feedback to students, plan for virtual class meetings, and communicate via email to answer questions.

What modifications will occur for students' virtual learning as the District's closure extends indefinitely?

- We are asking our teachers to focus on essential learning standards in Reading, Writing, Math, Science, and Social Studies
- Explore teachers will send one learning activity per week from each of their current classes
- Teachers will communicate any learning tasks that will be assessed
- We recognize each student and family is working through unique circumstances. We will continue to be responsive and supportive of each student and family's needs first. Please continue to let your child's homeroom teacher or building principal know if you are struggling with the virtual learning expectations.

Our family is struggling with Wi-Fi access to support the virtual learning needs of our students. What options do we have?

- If families are finding it challenging to support the virtual needs of their child(ren), we ask them to:
 - Please call 262-560-2126 or email helpdesk@oasd.org
- The District Technology Services Department is working with families to assign District devices and Wi-Fi Hotspots where necessary

There is a lot of communication coming through email. How do we know where to look to support our child(ren)'s learning?

- To streamline communication, we ask families to continue referencing the Intermediate School Virtual Learning Website page for announcements and direction to virtual learning goals. Mr. Olson and Mrs. Marr will continue to send this link to parents as a primary resource.
- 5th and 6th-grade families should continue to look for communication from their child's homeroom teacher and 7th, and 8th-grade students should receive communication from their four core teachers (ELA, Math, Science, and SS).

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How much time should students be spending engaged in virtual learning tasks each day?

- We recognize this question has caused general frustration in many households over the first few days of virtual learning. As a general guide, OASD has utilized the following virtual learning recommendations, as stated by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.
- If you feel your child is engaged in far more or less time than what is recommended, please reach out directly to their homeroom teacher. We recognize every student has unique challenges, as it pertains to learning at home. These are recommendations and may be adjusted in the future if schools remain closed through early May.

Grade Level	Recommended time spent working on assigned tasks (daily)
5th and 6th	3.5-4 hours per day total (Core and Explore)
7th and 8th	4-4.5 hours per day total (Core and Explore)

We need to access our child’s teacher for immediate support. What is the best method?

- Teachers are expected to be responsive during our Tuesday through Friday Virtual Learning days, yet understand an immediate response may not always be possible
- Teachers will continue to do their best to respond within a 24-hour window to all student or family questions
- Teachers will communicate a “Learning Help-Desk” time each day so that students and families know when they are available for immediate response to questions
- If a family needs immediate support and has not received a response from a teacher within 24 hours, we ask they contact the building principal for guidance

What about my child who requires special education services?

- Instructional staff who provide services to our students with disabilities will make every effort to deliver the support indicated in each student’s IEP utilizing the platforms available. Staff will be communicating with families regarding their child’s IEP services during any sustained school closure. When services return to the classroom setting, IEP teams can meet to determine if additional services are needed.

Are students required to participate in daily or weekly virtual meetings with teachers?

- Teachers will begin working with building principals to schedule whole class virtual sessions beginning in early to mid-April. These meetings will be optional depending on the student’s virtual learning situation but will serve the purpose of providing students virtual learning discussions with peers and teachers. This update will be communicated through the Intermediate Virtual Learning Site and/or from the classroom teacher(s) directly. These will be coordinated so that students aren’t overwhelmed by meeting expectations from multiple teachers.

Will my child’s work be assessed and graded during extended school closure?

- 5th through 8th-grade teachers will communicate the specific learning tasks that will be graded and/or assessed
- Feedback will be provided through Google Classroom to students
- Teachers will be asked to update their Skyward Gradebooks bi-weekly during this extended school closure

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Declaracion de Traducción: Estamos trabajando diligentemente para traducir nuestros documentos al español. Por favor comuníquese con la escuela de su hijo para aclaración. Si todavía necesitas aclaración, por favor comuníquese con Martita Mirsberger al (262) 560-8306 ext 8343.

Nondiscrimination: The Oconomowoc Area School District provides assurance that no student is discriminated against because of the student's sex, race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability.

If the District remains closed through early May, we may consider alternative options for grading and reporting. Those potential modifications will be communicated after April 22.

Please continue to refer to the District website (www.oasd.org/VirtualLearning) for frequent updates, as our District determines our next steps in response to federal, state, and local guidelines regarding COVID-19.

Sincerely,



John Flannery
OASD Director of Curriculum and Instruction