

Shaler Area School District

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March 25, 2020

Dear Shaler Area families,

As we discussed in our communication on March 20, 2020, Shaler Area has been working to finalize our Continuity of Education Plan due to statewide school closure in response to COVID-19. Continuity of Education is the overarching term for any educational practices that occur in the event of a prolonged school closure. It is important that students have the opportunity to develop and maintain skills while away from the customary school environment.

As we begin the process of starting our Continuity of Education, we will be implementing Remote Learning opportunities for our primary and elementary school students. The following calendar will help clarify what dates will be used to begin certain activities.

Primary/Elementary Remote Learning Calendar - Start Dates

The remote learning schedule for primary and elementary students beginning March 30 will be as follows:

Friday, March 27

- All teachers will communicate information with parents and students in order to participate in classroom activities for Monday, March 30.

Beginning Monday, March 30, 2020, all primary/elementary teachers will begin to implement Remote Learning activities/lessons with special area teachers beginning in April 2020.

Special Area classes (Art, Library (K-3), Music, STEAM and Physical Education)

- Remote learning will begin in April 2020. Additional details will be provided.

Guidelines for Primary/Elementary School Students Remote Learning Plans

Each day, students should do the following:

- Check-in for attendance — logged via a GoogleDoc that will be posted on our website. Please visit the site each day.
- Follow your teacher's directions to locate assignments. Each teacher will communicate a plan with you. Teachers will be using one of the following locations to house assignments:
 - Google Classroom
 - Website
 - Emailed directly to parents/guardians
 - Other platforms they are currently using and have been communicated with students and parents/guardians.

School Day Schedule

Daily assignments will be scheduled upon a two-day rotation based on an even calendar day or an odd calendar day (March 30 = even day, March 31 = odd day, April 1 = odd day, etc.)

- **Even Calendar Day**
 - ELA and Science will be assigned
- **Odd Calendar Day**
 - Math and Social Studies will be assigned
- **Special Area Subjects - (Art, Library (K-3), Music, STEAM and Physical Education)**
 - Activities/lessons will be posted on Monday and students will have the entire week to complete all assignments by Friday at 3:30 p.m.
- Activities and/or assignments should be between:
 - **15 - 30 minutes** per subject area for K-2 students
 - **25 - 45 minutes** per subject area for 3-6 students
- Beginning on Monday, March 30, teachers will be available via email Monday-Friday from 8:00 am - 11:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m. - 3:40 p.m. in the event that students or parents have questions.
- Title I, Academic Support teachers, Nurses, School Counselors, and Social Workers will be available during the school day via email for support.

Grading Procedures

- As of now primary and elementary assignments will not be graded. In the event of a longer closure, the grading procedure and policy may be modified, and parents will be notified. The focus of the district is on learning not grading at this point in time.

If you have specific questions about your child's lessons, you are encouraged to reach out directly to the teacher. Contact information for your schools can be accessed by [clicking here](#).

At this time, all of our school buildings will remain closed to staff, students, and families. If a Remote Learning lesson references material or text that your student left at school, please contact your teacher for an alternative.

We want to thank all of our parents/guardians for your patience and flexibility as we work through these very different times. We miss your children and wish them only the best. We also send best wishes to all of our families to remain safe and happy.

Sincerely,

Sean C. Aiken
Superintendent

Bryan E. O'Black, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent