



LOWER SCHOOL DISTANCE LEARNING PLAN

Distance learning plan goals:

1. Support student well-being
2. Support student academic development
3. Maintain a sense of community within our classes and school overall

Details of the Plan

Community

Each grade, 2nd-5th, will offer some way for students to connect online with their teachers and some of their peers in real time (called 'synchronous learning'). We're also developing ways for students to see each other's work. Students in kindergarten, first grade, and second grade will begin each day with a morning meeting activity that includes a video recording from one of their teachers. We're hoping to begin hosting an MCG (Monday Community Gathering) for the entire lower school next Monday, March 23.

Clarity

To support clarity, each grade level will use one platform for student work - all assignments will be posted on that one platform. Students may need to watch a video or print something out from another platform - but there will be one place where they start their school day. Students in grades K-3 will begin using Seesaw on Thursday, March 19, and students in grades 4 and 5 will continue with Google Classroom as they have been using.

Screentime

Teachers will do their best to incorporate activities which do not require students to be on a screen.

Learning Support Services

All of our learning support teachers are developing ways to meet with students virtually to support their development during distance learning.

Schedule

Each teacher is sharing a basic schedule that families can follow as they 'do school' at home. Every grade's schedule begins at either 8:30 am or 9:00 am daily and includes time for 'recess', 'lunch', 'movement', and 'choice'. Families are welcome to use it, or not use it. Lisa and Betsy

are also gathering examples of home learning schedules and other resources, and they will be available to help families figure out a way to balance 'school,' family time, and wellness activities, as we navigate our way through this experience together.

Specialist Classes

Every grade will connect with one specialist class daily. The specialist classes will be integrated into the platform the classroom teacher is using.

How Parents Can Support Their Children

You can support your child's ability to engage with the distance learning program in the following ways:

1. Provide an environment conducive to learning - a comfortable, quiet place, where the necessary technology can sit safely. Some kind of headphone or earbuds will help your child to focus on the online task they're working on. It will be helpful to have lined and blank paper, pencils, markers or crayons, and anything else that will help create a 'classroom' in your home.
2. Be sure that children are appropriately dressed, fed (so they are not eating during any live sessions), and prepared for the home-school day.
3. During synchronous online times, we ask that a parent/caregiver be nearby.

Tech help is available to our parent community. If you need help, please email distancelearninghelp@blackpinecircle.org.