

Distance Learning in the Trumbull Public Schools: Questions & Answers

with Jonathan Budd, Ph.D., Assistant Superintendent, and Christina Hefele, Director of Digital Learning
March 25, 2020

The following is pertinent information to help educate the community of the plans of Trumbull Public Schools. It is a paraphrase of the question & answer period of the March 25, 2020 Distance Learning in the Trumbull Public Schools presentation by Jonathan Budd, Ph.D., Assistant Superintendent, and Christina Hefele, Director of Digital Learning. The full presentation may be accessed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nx-xqyzpoJ8&feature=youtu.be>.

If my child is having difficulty understanding the prepared activities from the teacher, what should we do?

Please have open communication with the teacher, as this feedback will be helpful for their preparation.

When can we expect live video instruction?

Two major complications to mandate this would include our legal obligations under FERPA and the accessibility for all our families. However, we are beginning limited use of this for our one-on-one settings, such as some special education provider services.

How about recorded videos from teachers?

We have not required students to do their work at the same time as teachers, since we can't assure 100% accessibility and participation for a set time live conversation with students and teachers. However, we anticipate, as the weeks unfold, to pursue the possibility of teachers recording key concepts and presenting them to their students. This would likely begin with concurrent enrollment classes at Trumbull High School as well as other specialized areas.

What is the update on Google Classroom Guardian for Parents?

Currently, we are in the process of taking all the parent e-mail addresses from our Infinite Campus Student Information System and loading them into Google Classroom. Later this week, parents will receive an email with an invite link to join their child's classroom. Please activate the link and you'll begin to receive summary newsletters on a regular basis. We encourage parents to join this way rather than as a student.

A forthcoming parent newsletter is to include technology and curriculum insight. When will it begin?

Later today, parents in all grades, PreK-12, should receive a newsletter. This first issue will focus on Google Classroom, as well as resources that are available such as our Trumbull Public Library.

Are the art, music, and physical education activities for elementary school required?

They are not required, but strongly suggested on a supplemental basis since they are still key components of a well-rounded education and a comprehensive curriculum. These activities should be a nice break from the literacy, math, and science learning K-5 students are doing daily. These K-5 art, music, and physical education weekly resources are shown on our website at www.trumbullps.org. Next week, we will be adding material for Grades 5 Spanish as well as instructions for students in band and strings in the elementary level.

Do you have any key updates on the Advanced Placement Exams?

Yes. The College Board is changing its delivery method for AP exams this spring. Students will have two date choices for each subject area as well as a 45-minute free-response essay exam at home with encrypted technology software from College Board. More information will be forthcoming on this topic as well as more logistics for AP functioning.

I am not a trained teacher, but how can I help my elementary child in reading?

Reading aloud with your child should focus on your child's loving the experience of reading. This will help so much. The main focus of elementary school is helping each child be a strong thinker, reader and writer, which will help bring students success in other areas of elementary school as well as the future.

Reading with Your K-5 Child: Key Strategies (applied in the broadcast to *Jabari Jumps* by Gaia Cornwall)

- 1) Ask the child to make a prediction
- 2) Talk about a difficult word or two
- 3) Ask child to connect the book with own life

Basic Math Facts with Your K-5 Child

K-2: Focus on addition + subtraction

$$4+6 = 10 \quad 10-4 = 6$$

$$6+4 = 10 \quad 10-6 = 4$$

3-5: Focus on multiplication + division

$$4 \times 6 = 24 \quad 24/6 = 4$$

$$6 \times 4 = 24 \quad 24/4 = 6$$

Summary:

Contact us through the Assistant Superintendent's office at 203-452-4336. If you have a technology need, such as an additional device, repair, or additional access, please complete the "IT Request Form" at

www.trumbullps.org.