



DISTANCE LEARNING OUTLINE

WWW.THEPRIMARYDAYSCHOOL.ORG

SPRING 2020

Our Mission

The Primary Day School provides young children with the finest education for the most important years. In a warm, embracing community where each child is known and understood, our rich, engaging curriculum is distinguished by academic excellence and designed to inspire curiosity, nurture young hearts and minds, and build strength of character. At Primary Day, we guide our students on their journey to a lasting appreciation of learning and exploration. This is who we are.

Mission Driven Distance Learning

Primary Day's approach to distance learning is grounded in the belief that the instructional experiences teachers design when school is in session cannot be completely replicated in a virtual learning format. The interpersonal interactions amongst teachers, learners and peers constitute a dynamic that is unique, invaluable and substantive. Practically speaking it is this construct of the PDS experience that is the most challenging to recreate via virtual means. However, our determined goal is to provide learning experiences for our children that engage them in our challenging academic curriculum in the event that they cannot attend classes on campus. An important component of any distance learning endeavor is the teacher-parent partnership. In times of complex change, the need for parent participation is critical. With the full understanding that the PDS faculty remain the primary drivers of regular, virtual instruction, collaboration is key and at-home support appreciated.

Distance Learning in Practice

- Zoom, email and telephone will be used for communication between students, parents and teachers.
- Teachers will email lessons and learning expectations to children and families each week.
- Student work for each day will include lessons with educators(s) via Zoom technology in addition to independent assignments provided by homeroom teachers and specialists.
- Teachers will connect with each student via Zoom, FaceTime and/or telephone once a week for a brief touch-point conversations and/or individual lessons. These calls are not intended for parent-teacher conferences, but rather are opportunities for an authentic interaction between teachers and their students.
- Teachers, specialists and administrators are available via email during the regular school hours of 7:45am-3:15pm each day when students are engaged in distance learning opportunities. Telephone conversations can, of course, be arranged as well.

Expectations for Learners and Parents

- Review daily assignment expectations by considering weekly and daily lesson plans and logging into Zoom at scheduled time(s).
- Plan out the day for when online components can be done, including uploading of photos/videos to teachers as appropriate.
- Gather the materials needed for each day's lessons. The majority of learning tasks can be completed utilizing common, at home supplies.
- When daily assignments are completed, students and parents should review them together forwarding them to teachers as requested or setting them aside to be submitted to teachers upon our return to campus.

Information for Parents of Learners

The Distance Learning model at Primary Day does not assume that students will be engaged in schoolwork all day, every day. Life experiences at home and with family and friends are also essential to the development of young learners and, away from campus, there are always opportunities for the new and different. As parents, your help and support are critical to our collective success.

Tasks the teacher has set should be incorporated into your daily life at home. In addition, please keep the following guidelines in mind:

- Determine a daily schedule. A routine and structure will help students engage in their learning. Build breaks into the day. Your child will be better able to complete school work if expectations are clear from the start.
- Create a learning space. Children need a comfortable, calm environment to learn. Establish a designated space for learning — ideally it will be quiet and separate from active, living spaces.
- Consider the technological access and supervision of your home. Children should have the access needed to complete their designated tasks, but this should be supervised as it usually would. Lessons for each day should not exceed one hour of screen-based learning. Please try to limit the amount of screen time outside this one-hour period.
- If requested, parents are asked to assist students to email videos, pictures and documents to teachers.
- Learning activities such as reading aloud, dramatic play, investigations, drawing, writing, and construction will be in the lesson plans, but never hesitate to initiate such activities as

you wish.

- Parents/guardians should assist children with their tasks but are not obligated to complete the assignments with their children. Children should be encouraged to plan their day and work as independently as is age appropriate.
- Communicate with PDS educators. We will remain in regular contact with students and their families, but we strongly encourage you to communicate as frequently as needed. It is likely that teachers and administrators will receive a higher volume of email during distance learning days, so we ask families to consider this when reaching out to the School. If you observe your child becoming frustrated or overwhelmed, please contact your child's teacher or the Head of School.
- Facilitate social contact. Virtual social contact will ensure your child does not feel isolated from friends and peers. Encourage proper use of video phone chats.
- Encourage movement. Ask your children to move around so they are not sedentary all day long. Exercise supports physical and mental health, which in turn reduces stress.

Community Communications

Classroom Representatives and the PDPA will connect families with enjoyable virtual games throughout during protracted distance learning weeks, so please be certain you like us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on [Instagram](#). Likewise, the Representatives will maintain online platforms for students to check in with one another. Please email your Class Representative if you are not connected to your class specific virtual playdates.

During Distance Learning times, The Head of School will send regular email messages to the community including relevant updates and on-campus availability. For additional information or if you have questions or concerns, please contact Scott Lawrence, Head of School at s.lawrence@theprimarydayschool.org.