

Getting through the Distance Learning Challenge

During this time of uncertainty, we are trying not to add too many “to do’s” and additional stress on families, but instead to find small ways to adjust existing practices to reinforce learning opportunities; focus on the priorities to the greatest extent possible. Below are some suggestions to assist families in moving forward with successful remote learning.

Establish Routines and Expectations – We all do best when our life is predictable. Set a routine time and place for your child to begin school work. This time should be as close to the time the child would start a typical school day and the place is where there are minimal distractions.

Strategies that help Distance Learning run smoothly:

Define a specific space where your child/children can work successfully. This should be at a table or desk. If there are multiple children in your household participating in Distance Learning, they can do so in the same room. This mimics a typical school setting. Typically having others work along with them can be motivating.

Review schedule for following day the night before. This allows for clear expectations when beginning their school work routine.

On/Off Procedure

Teachers will manage the time allotment for your child’s instructional session. However, implementing the On/Off process will limit fatigue and assist students with attention to task issues. Having children work for an allotted time, (20-30 minutes), then taking a “movement or snack” break proves to be helpful in developing time management skills and ultimately success.

Check In’s

Begin and end each day with a “check in”. Discuss with your child what will be the subject(s) that he/she will be working on today. At the end of the instructional session, discuss what he/she learned today! Read instructions to your child. You can read the directions aloud and have your child repeat back in his/her own words. This helps you determine whether your child is clear on expectations and assists in beginning and seeing the task through to completion.

Check In’s are also important throughout a given task, especially for students who are easily distracted or may have learning differences. For some of these students, getting through the lesson/task may require a check in every 5 minutes, or every 2 pages of reading, after completing a word problem, or even after completing 2-3 given math computation problems from a page of 15-20.

Positive Feedback

Establishing a reward system to keep your child motivated and on task may also prove to be beneficial. An incentive plan may be applied to either short term or long term goals achieved. The reward may be as simple as watching a favorite tv program, texting a friend, or playing a game with a parent.

Accommodation Plans

If your child has an Accommodation plan, please refer to the specific accommodations listed and apply.

We are all trying to see the hope in this time of uncertainty; together, let’s see the opportunity to grow and learn together as teams of students, families, classroom teachers and specialists.