

March 31st, 2020

Re: Remote/Distance Learning

Dear Parents,

I am writing to you from my dining room table, which will be my new classroom until at least May 4th. This date will be re-evaluated based on public health advice. I wanted to share my plan with you for distance learning during this unprecedented time.

It is important to note the TDSB is still working on final details. Currently, teachers are working on lessons/activities to begin the week of April 6th.

Please see my plan below. Note this could change if I receive further directive(s) from Mr. Kennedy or from our Director of Education. This is a very fluid time, and things are constantly being changed and updated.

During this pause, I have enjoyed connecting with students on Flipgrid, and we will use Flipgrid more in the coming weeks. This is a TDSB approved tool and is a great way for students to share ideas on certain topics without students all having to be online at once.

My plan

The Ontario government has asked teachers to plan approximately five hours of work per week, focusing on literacy and math for K-3 students. Every week I plan to post the work for the entire week in Google Classroom. This will give students an opportunity to work ahead if they wish. I will try to provide lessons that students can complete with little assistance, as I know many parents are busy working during the day. Depending on the work, I will provide activities that can be completed online, and I will also PDF items if you wish to print them. Students can work at their own pace, and are not usually required to be online at specific times during the day.

I will ask students to join me each Monday at 12pm for a Google Meet to check in with me, and to see their classmates. If for some reason students are not able to make this meeting, please just let me know. I know many students will be sharing devices with parents and other siblings, and that home schedules can vary.

I would also like to host a Google Meet with parents this Thursday (April 2nd) at 5:30pm to share any updates and for a chance for you to ask questions. If you can't make it to the meeting, it is not a problem. You can login via a computer or the Google Meet app is also available. Here is the link:

<https://meet.google.com/bme-ynps-kka>

After our meeting on Thursday, I would like to chat with students on Friday (April 3rd) at 10:00am to say hi and tell them our plans for the coming week. This will give them a chance to reconnect and ask me any questions. Their link will be posted to Google Classroom and here:

<https://meet.google.com/moo-icma-mkx>

I look forward to connecting with you all soon,
Ms. Lussier

Questions or concerns you may have....

Distance learning means too much screen time. Will hard copies be sent home?

I will do my best to provide lessons that can be completed online or which can be printed if you have a printer at home. Please note I do not have the ability to send home any paper. I know distance learning will have increased screen time and I will do my best to give options for assignments.

How can we provide social opportunities?

Flipgrid will be a great tool for students to use to interact with each other. There might be more Google Meets on specific topics, but we will definitely have a meeting once a week as a chance to chat and share.

How do you plan on keeping parents updated?

I will continue to use Classdojo to reach out to parents. I will also update my class website with a special tab for distance learning. I will add tools and provide a summary of lessons here for parents to access.

Can a parent log into the Google Classroom?

The classroom is for student login only. Parents will get a weekly summary if you signed up with me at the beginning of the year. Students need to use

their student number and password to login. You can still sign up for a weekly summary by contacting me.

How does my child access Google Classroom at home?

Hopefully all students have had the opportunity to log in to Google Classroom this year. To access from home I would suggest going to aw.tdsb.on.ca and logging in from there. When students log in through AW, they will have access to all the TDSB tools. Depending on the tool TDSB, will ask for either their student number or email address.

What is my child's email address?

firstname.lastname@student.tdsb.on.ca

Will maker mats continue?

Yes. Students are expected to hand in the March Maker mat and I will be sending out the April maker mat April 6th.

Will Wonder Journals continue?

Yes. Students are expected to hand in their March Wonder Journal. This can be done by either typing their entry or if they hand wrote it, they can take a picture of their work instead of redoing it. I will add a Wonder Journal topic on Google Classroom for students to submit their work. I am also thinking about using Flipgrid for students to share their Wonder Journals just like we did when we were in class.

Will the work my child completes get assessed?

The Ontario government recently announced feedback and assessment will continue.

Will all subjects be taught?

Currently we are being asked to focus on Literacy and Math. I may add in some other topics as well but will also wait for further directive.

Will there be a report card in June?

The Ontario government announced there will be report cards in June. I am not sure if they will be the regular ones or one more reflective of distance learning.

What happens if my child does not complete the work you have given?

This is still pending further advisory from the Ontario government and TDSB.

My child has items in the school we need. Can we go into the school to get them?

The answer unfortunately is no. Even staff are not allowed in the building unless it is to get technology to help teach remotely. If something changes I am sure Mr. Kennedy will let you know.

Will I still get weekly emails from the school?

Mr. Kennedy has told us he will still send out Friday emails to all family members.

I have two children and only one device. What do I do?

I won't be asking for students to be online at a specific time except for our weekly Google Meet. These meetings will take place Mondays 12:00pm and won't be longer than half an hour.

If we don't have Internet, what alternatives are there instead of virtual learning?

Currently, there are no other alternatives for virtual learning. If your family requires support obtaining Internet, the TDSB is working on helping families. Please let me know if this is the case.

At Home Resources

- Materials will continue to be added to [Learn at Home](#) on a regular basis to provide new and compelling content throughout this period. Recent updates include supplemental STEM learning resources created by third-parties and a parent resource that is focused on reading and writing.
- TVO Kids offers educational programming throughout the day for school-aged children. Their broadcast schedule can be viewed [here](#).