



Parent Handbook for Remote Learning Fall 2020

*****Please know that plans embedded in this document may evolve as the year progresses. What is shared here is our initial opening plan - we will let you know of any changes as they arise*****

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Introduction

Dear families of students enrolled in our Remote Learning Academy, We have spent much of the summer structuring ways that we will support our remote learners in a way that is engaging and enriching, touches on content standards, and maintains a strong connection with the Academy School community as a whole. We have a team of dedicated, excited teachers to lead this work with your children, and we are very much looking forward to the semester ahead. While the remote learning option presents challenges at times, it also presents many wonderful opportunities to expand on teaching and learning as we know it, and that in and of itself is exciting.

As the semester progresses, we will look for any and all opportunities to connect our in-person and remote learning students; all school sings, annual traditions like the pumpkin festival, and perhaps new traditions that will be developed this year.

Please know that we are thinking of you, and look forward to seeing you and your students soon.

Kelly, Jon and the Academy School Staff

Remote Learning Program

We have many wonderful Academy School staff members dedicated to the Remote Learning Academy. These teachers will serve as classroom teachers, support personnel, interventionists and enrichment teachers. We are confident that we will create an engaging, enriching learning experience for our students who are enrolled in remote learning.

Your child's teacher will be in touch with you directly in the coming weeks regarding specific programming and instructional plans.

Start of the Year

Our WSESD Central Office has determined that the first 4 days of the school year (Sept. 8 - 11) will be transition days. This will be time to connect with teachers, distribute materials, and get necessary components in place to begin the full learning program on Monday, September 14th. Teachers will take attendance beginning September 8th.

You will hear from your child's classroom teacher about specific start plans, schedules, and scheduling a time to connect over that first week.

Technology

All students will need access to a computer and internet access. Academy School will provide a Chromebook to those students who are in need of one. Your classroom teacher will provide information regarding a day to get materials to you in advance of the start of the school year.

All students will complete an acceptable use form of the technological tools. We will monitor usage, and will contact you if there are concerns raised. If you have internet access concerns, please contact Jody Mattulke at jmattulke@wsesdvt.org.

Requesting a Meeting

We are here for you to address any concerns or questions that may arise as the semester goes on. If you would like to schedule a meeting with either a teacher or school administrator, please contact them directly to arrange a time via telephone or email. Drop-in meetings will not be possible at this time. Scheduled meetings can happen in-person outside of the building while maintaining social distance, on the phone, or through the Zoom platform.

Attendance

Regular attendance throughout distance learning will be important. We will consider any daily contact with a student - attending a zoom meeting, writing an email, phone call, submission of work - as evidence of being present. Should you need to be absent from the remote learning program for a day or a period of time, please communicate with your child's classroom teacher and the Academy School office, just as you would in-person.

Consistent or repeated absences will result in contact from Academy School administration, and the application of our WSESD attendance procedures. Remote learning requires consistent support and commitment to communication from parents and guardians, as elementary-aged students may not have the knowledge or resources to access remote learning independently.

WSESD Meals Program

WSESD Leadership, in conjunction with FreshPicks Cafe staff, have developed the following plans to provide daily meals to all students.

For students who have opted for remote learning

- Meals will be available outside of every town elementary school on Mondays and Thursdays at designated times. For Academy School, we will set up a meals table in the back parking lot by the West Brattleboro Fire Station from 11:00 - 12:00 on Mondays and Thursdays.
- Students will pick up 2 or 3 days of meals at a time.
- On Mondays, families will pick up breakfasts and lunches for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Thursday pickups will have meals for Thursday and Friday.

In the event of a full district school closure

1. Academy administration will send out a survey for families to enroll in either meal delivery or meal pickup at identified sites.
2. The school district will work with FM Kuzmeskus to design bus routes to deliver meals to students and families who opt for delivery.

Who you can go to for support

Curriculum questions during remote learning time

Your child's classroom teacher will be the best person to contact for specific programming or curriculum questions. Please know that we are making a concerted effort to focus our attention on relationship and community building over the first weeks of school, so introduction of content curriculum will be slower than usual. We believe that this is in the best interest of our community, and this is a district-wide initiative.

Behavior at home

We have numerous supports at school related to child behavior that we are happy to extend to your home learning environment. Bethany Connolly is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst, who can provide some strategies to employ at home. In addition, Shellie Doubleday, our Planning Room Coordinator, and Jon Sessions, our Assistant Principal, are happy to support in creating some positive behavioral structures at home if you would find this helpful.

Health questions

Both of our nurses (Amy Majer, RN and Matthew Wright, RN) will be available to answer some specific health questions from you on Wednesdays. The best way to contact them is by email. You can reach Amy Majer at amajer@wsesdvt.org and Matthew Wright at mawright@wsesdvt.org. To reach the health office by phone during school hours call 254-3743.

Emotional Wellness (yours or your kids)

Ana Ocasio, our School Counselor, and Jody Mattulke, our Family Education and Engagement Coordinator, and Lori Macie, our HCRS Clinician, are available to support you and your students during this challenging time. They can offer a range of supports and/or connect with appropriate outside providers should that be helpful. Ana can be reached at aocasio@wsesdvt.org, Jody can be reached at jmattulke@wsesdvt.org, and Lori can be reached at lmacie@wsesdvt.org.

Food Support

If you or someone you know is experiencing hardship and food insecurity during this time, or is unable to make it to school meal pickup locations, please contact Jody Mattulke: jmattulke@wsesdvt.org or at 802-689-9009

Other Matters

As always, both of our school administrators are always available to support you in any way that we can. You can reach Kelly Dias, Principal at kdias@wsesdvt.org or Jon Sessions, Assistant Principal at jsessions@wsesdvt.org. In addition, you can call the office at any time: 802-254-3743.