

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Ever since schools began closing in response to the spread of the COVID-19 virus, I think we have all been trying to imagine what education would look like when we had to shutter our classrooms.

As I watched events unfold around the country, I realized it would be impossible to effectively recreate the structured learning environment you find in schools in homes across Idaho Falls. However, I know our talented teachers and staff can facilitate learning. We can help children learn key concepts and encourage them to engage in big ideas. That will be our goal – to keep children learning – as D91 rolls out remote instruction on Monday, April 6.

As we embark on these uncharted waters, I think it is important to set clear expectations for students, teachers and parents so we can successfully navigate these tumultuous times together.

Over the last few weeks, our administrators have been working with principals and staff to develop these shared expectations. Here's what to expect in the coming weeks:

- **OUR FOCUS:** Learning will be structured to cover the key grade-level and content standards students need to learn between now and the end of the school year. All our schools will reach out to families in the next few days with details on what learning will look like.
 - Lessons may be different between schools and between content areas.
 - Some lessons will include online instruction. Others will involve learning activities or packets.
- **GRADING:** In general, we do not plan to give grades for work in the third trimester.
 - Students in grades 9-12 will receive a Pass or Incomplete.
 - The Pass/Incomplete will be awarded based on the student's performance on an end-of-course assessment or ECA, which will gauge whether a student has learned the key content.
 - The Pass/Incomplete will not impact a student's GPA.
 - Middle school students taking classes for high school credit will also receive a Pass or Incomplete.
 - Teachers will work with students who earn an Incomplete. They will identify the key standards students haven't mastered, re-teach the material and then reassess students so they can earn the credit.
 - The only classes in which students will receive grades are the college-level dual enrollment classes we teach through colleges and universities.
 - Instead of graded assignments, students will receive feedback from teachers.
- **SCHOOL WORK:** In general, students will receive assignments on Monday. Assignments will have a set due date and students will have a number of days to complete them.
 - **Assignments:** Assignments will include a learning objective and the specific task/learning activity.
 - **Expectations for Grades K-6:** 45 minutes a day for reading, 45 minutes a day for math and 30 minutes a day of writing

- **Expectations for Grades 7-8:** About 20 minutes of work a day per class, but that may vary depending on assignments.
- **Expectations for Grades 9-12:** About 20 minutes of work a day per class, but that may vary depending on assignments.
- **SENIORS:** One of our priorities is to ensure seniors complete the requirements they need to graduate. High school staff will reach out to every senior to review their progress and make plans for the successful completion of their senior year.
- **Special Education & 504 Services:** Case managers are working with their colleagues to ensure accommodations/modifications are being made to lessons. We will continue to provide related services, delivered in a variety of ways, with careful consideration of individual needs.
- **COMMUNICATION:** Communication will be critical so we have put a number of things in place to ensure good communication between students and teachers and parents and schools.
 - **Office Hours:** Teachers and schools across the district will have daily office hours. From 10 am to 2 p.m., Monday through Friday, teachers, principals, office staff, and district leaders will be available to answer questions or provide additional support.
 - **Check-Ins:** A teacher or member of the school staff will check in with students in grades K-8 at least once a week. Check-ins will look different for high school students.
 - **Tech Help:** A Tech Help Desk and a PowerSchool Help Desk have been set up to provide support to students, parents and staff. Support will be available from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.
 - Call the [IT Help Desk at \(208\) 525-7556](tel:2085257556).
 - Call the [PowerSchool Parent hotline at \(208\)524-7816](tel:2085247816)
- **DEVICE DISTRIBUTION:** Over the last few weeks, schools have been identifying families that may need computer devices. We will begin distributing devices on Monday, April 6. Watch for pickup information from your school.
 - Because we have a limited number of devices, we would ask that families take just one device per family at first. We may be able to provide additional devices later.
 - Families that need a device, but haven't heard anything yet, should contact their school.
 - We know that getting access to the Internet may be a challenge for some families and we are working with community partners to try and resolve that issue. For now, here are some suggestions:
 - Many cell phones can be used as a hot spot. Many carriers are offering this service for free so please check with your cell phone carrier to see if that's an option.
 - WIFI is available within about 30 feet of any school building so someone could park near one of our schools, log on and gain access to the Internet.

- There are many other free WIFI hotspots around Idaho Falls. We're trying to compile a list and will share that when we have compiled it.

This is an incredibly challenging time for everyone. We know we will make some mistakes as we roll out remote learning. We understand that not everything we put in place will work. We realize we may need to make some adjustments along the way. We ask for your understanding as we move forward. We are working diligently to try and do what is in the best interests of our students and staff, and we appreciate the tremendous support we've already received as we work to facilitate learning, not recreate school.

Most importantly, please make sure to take care of your family. In accordance with the guidance from local health officials please adhere to the governor's stay-at-home order and go to the Eastern Idaho Public Health District's website for the latest information on COVID-19. <https://eiph.idaho.gov/>

Thank you
George Boland
Superintendent