

SMA Distance Learning Plan Fall 2020

The Fall 2020 Distance Learning Plan will have some of the same elements as our plan during the spring school closure for COVID (Stage 3 of the CDAP Plan). However, there will be some discernible differences. Instead of ZOOM we will use Google Meet, which will be accessible directly through Google Classroom. A number of the elements within the Google Suite will be incorporated to deliver instruction. The video through Google Meet will appear different than with ZOOM. We will utilize fixed document or web cams* that will allow the distance student to view direct teach, modeling, and guided practice in the classroom. Audio will be constant throughout the feed. Teachers may move in and out of camera view throughout the lesson. Classmates may be seen when they come to the whiteboard for guided practice, but will be largely unseen. The class will be recorded in Google Meet and accessible to rewatch.

Our goal will be the same as during the school closure: to execute lesson plans and continue to move learning forward as we maintain the required social distancing and safety for our SMA community on campus. Our teachers are preparing to make the adjustments necessary in order to continue instruction and engagement with your students from a distance while also providing in-person instruction to those students on campus.

SMA will initiate the Distance Learning Plan on Monday, August 10, 2020. Another communication from your student's individual teacher(s) will be forthcoming with details of their plans and expectations. Expect multiple emails from teachers. We will reevaluate and issue further guidelines as the COVID-19 scenario changes.

The SMA technology team will be available to assist parents and students who may have accessibility issues with online resources. Contact them via email. For tech issues, email Nancy Smith at smithn@smabears.org or Jeff Loyd at loydj@smabears.org. Use the individual teacher email to contact teachers with subject matter questions. All faculty will be available to assist with their Google Classroom questions.

You have been informed through the School Reopening Plan that extracurricular activities will not be available for students whose parents have opted for the distance learning option. Students should be able to resume normal activities once they return to campus. Our extracurricular staff will remain available to contact for advice and recommendations during the period of distance learning. Should you have any questions in regard to eligibility for TAPPS competition on SMA teams, please contact Coach Les Davis or coach Toby Wade.

Remember that you will need to contact the appropriate school office to schedule meetings, phone conferences, or virtual meetings as needed during this time. If physical

visits to campus are scheduled, all visitors must go to the Health Services Center for initial screening upon arrival on campus.

SMA Enrolled Distance Learning Students

Teachers will be communicating with your students via their SMA Bears account (studenta@smabears.org) and with parents through FACTS/Renweb. Students will be required to monitor their account daily throughout the extended period. Please make sure your children are familiar with their SMA email and are able to access their email messages. Students will have the requirement to be online on a regular basis Monday through Friday. For attendance purposes, Lower School students will need to sign in on Google Classroom with their grade level teacher by 9:00 a.m. daily. Upper and Middle school students will need to do the same with every teacher on their schedule throughout the school day. Failure to do so will be recorded as an absence. We will run a regular school day bell schedule.

FACTS/RenWeb is the de facto authority for grades, behavioral, and attendance records. Middle and Upper School lesson plans will appear on this platform as well. LS lesson plans are kept in Google Docs. If parents/guardians wish to monitor your student's Google Classroom, they may sign up as a guardian, but will need a gmail account to do so.

LS (Lower School) Students

Teachers will communicate with Lower School parents via email in order to arrange distance learning with Lower School students. Please make sure all parents who will be involved with distance learning are checking emails every day. Instruction and assignments may not look the same as on-campus learning. Specials class teachers (PE, Art, Music) will be working with grade level teachers to post activities for students at **home**.

Middle School/Upper School Students

Communication will be done through the student. Parents will need to monitor FACTS/RenWeb. We suggest that parents sign up to be a guardian in Google Classroom if there is a need to closely monitor your student for responsibility. Some but not all electives will consist of modified activities at home for a grade. Art and Band students won't be able to perform the same activities as their classmates. It is suggested that those hoping to be athletes train on their own in anticipation of their return. Elective teachers will be in touch with their students to communicate plans and expectations. For those students choosing the distance option while pursuing Honors, AP, or Dual Credit, please be aware that many of these courses will entail a great deal of

responsibility for all that is covered directly or indirectly in the classroom. This requires extra diligence.

In Conclusion

We will continue to provide updates and guidance as soon and as often as possible. Please expect your volume of emails to increase over the remainder of this period. This is simply a necessity. We will continue to update distance learning guidelines throughout the next several weeks as needed. Parent emails from Mrs. Henry, will likely have a FAQ section added to answer those most often asked questions in regard to distance learning. While we understand the reasons that parents have opted for this option, we need your understanding that answers may be a bit longer in coming than when all students were being served remotely. We will respond within a twenty-four hour period. During the school closure, SMA outperformed most if not all educational entities in our immediate area. We will continue to work at being the best option for your student.

*We are expecting to receive more document or web cams very soon. Supply and demand make this more difficult than in normal times. Audio instruction and documents will be available immediately in all classes. While we hope to be at 100% with cameras on Day 1, this may not be possible. We have orders placed. We have taken steps to beef up bandwidth and delivery. Notify us if you experience connectivity issues. Homes receiving DL instruction are responsible to maintain wi-fi settings for connectivity and speed in the dwelling.