

Meridian CUSD 223 E-Learning Plan

Purpose

Since the beginning of FY 20, Illinois had allowed for the maximum amount of time approved by the state of Illinois that may be run as remote learning days per year, if needed. Given the potential impact of COVID-19 ISBE is working with legislatures to create a protocol to support remote learning should it be necessary as schools, and society at large, work to find a means of staying productive in this situation. We believe that it is important for Meridian CUSD to have a remote learning option given the potential for schools to not be in session for a prolonged period of time. Such an instance of prolonged closure without academic activity would negatively impact students in a number of ways. More importantly, for all students, we believe that having the option of remote learning days reinforces the fact that teaching and learning are not confined to class periods or physical classrooms. Additionally, the implementation of technology-infused learning and personalized learning used in conjunction with remote learning days has the ability to build capacity of all stakeholders in our school.

Timing

Remote days will be announced as soon as possible but no later than 6AM using our automated calling system, social media, local news outlets, and through our website. K-12 teachers will share lessons and expectations on Google Classroom, and/or email by 9:00 a.m. on the morning of the remote learning day with students, or they will send instructional materials home with students the evening prior.

Communication/Availability

We expect teachers to be in communication with students regarding learning expectations during a remote learning day. Additionally, we expect teachers to monitor their email and/or Google Classroom in order to provide support to students. The purpose of the remote learning day is to supplement and support the stated objectives of the curriculum while providing flexibility for both the students and faculty/staff.

Attendance

Teachers will be taking attendance based on the students' work toward the stated learning expectations utilizing the resources provided. Ideally, students who are conducting their remote learning online through Google Classroom should check in by 1:00 p.m. on the remote learning day. Attendance for students issued take-home work will be based upon completed assignments turned in within the appropriate time frame once school resumes. Teachers will allow flexibility (up to five days) for students that need extra time to get the work turned in due to school closure.

General Expectations

In general, student work on a remote learning day will be based upon research informed instructional practices. Some examples of research informed instructional practices appropriate for remote learning include, but are not limited to:

1. Setting Objectives
2. Reinforcing Effort/Providing Recognition and Feedback
3. Cues, Questions & Advance Organizers
4. Nonlinguistic Representations (Graphic Organizers)
5. Summarizing & Note Taking

6. Identifying Similarities and Differences
7. Generating & Testing Hypotheses
8. Homework for later grades with minimal parental involvement with a clear purpose
9. Scaffolding Instruction
10. Student practice
11. Individualized Instruction
12. Inquiry-Based Teaching
13. Concept Mapping
14. Reciprocal Teaching
15. Promoting student metacognition
16. Teacher clarity (learning goals, expectations, content delivery, assessment results, etc.)
17. Setting goals or objectives
18. Higher-level questioning
19. Learning feedback that is detailed and specific
20. The Directed Reading-Thinking Activity
21. Question-Answer Relationship
22. KWL Chart
23. Comparison Matrix
24. Anticipation Guides
25. Response Notebooks
26. Student Reflection
27. Use of software programming vetted and approved for usage by Meridian CUSD223

One of the best pieces of advice offered from other states is to not overwhelm students with work on these days. Students will not be expected to complete the equivalent of classwork time and additional homework in our traditional school day during a remote learning day. The law requires 5 clock hours of instruction and appropriate learning opportunities for all students' needs. Student work should be relevant, meaningful, and manageable for them. Should a circumstance, such as a power outage or lack of internet access at their home prohibit a student from completing an assignment(s), that student will be given adequate time to make up the assignment *without penalty* once school resumes. If it is known in advance that a student does not have access to the internet or required technology to complete the work, a non-electronic method of completing the work, if available, should be provided to the student. All students will have five (5) school days to submit any expected work on a remote learning day for full credit.

Special Education Support

Special Education and 504 students will be provided the same accommodations and modifications outlined in their IEP. Special education teachers will work with regular education staff to determine the appropriate modifications for any electronic/home based learning materials.

Special education teachers will contact families to determine the appropriate methods to supply help during the assigned work times.

Help may be provided via email, school phones, and skype.

Support

Should teachers or students encounter any technical issues on a remote learning day, the technology staff and the administration will be available as they will also be working during the remote learning day. All K-12 instructional staff have access to a district device for remote learning, and students will have the ability to take home a device if possible and as needed. To explain, if a student does not have access to an electronic device at home, they will be allowed to check out a device the day before potential school closure to take home in case a remote learning day is utilized.