



Avonworth School District Frequently Asked Questions Update

What has changed with Governor Wolf's order to close schools indefinitely?

On Monday, March 30, 2020, Governor Wolf closed schools indefinitely to stem the spread of the COVID-19 virus. I expect the length of the closure to coincide with President Trump's extension of the social distancing order, which was for an additional 30 days.

Unfortunately, we are all at the mercy of a fluid situation. I believe we can expect schools to be closed through the end of April at a minimum. After spring break, we will continue with the schedule that we have established, with an Act 80 teacher planning day on Mondays followed by instruction days Tuesday - Friday.

How does this affect activities and events scheduled for the spring?

Activities and events scheduled through the end of April are cancelled or postponed. The longer the closure takes place, the less likely events will be rescheduled. At this time, I am not optimistic about the spring sports seasons taking place. If school does resume, we will do our best to reschedule events.

What about high school graduation?

To me, high school graduation is the most important event for students, families, and staff. It is the culmination of many, many years of learning experiences. It is very important to me that this ceremony takes place in the spirit that it was intended. It is my desire to hold a full graduation ceremony when it is safe for us to do so. This may mean that the ceremony is held after its regularly scheduled date, sometime during the summer. As we receive more clarity on the future, additional information will follow.

What will seniors need to do to ensure they are able to graduate as expected in June of 2020?

One of the main reasons we felt compelled to put this system in place was for our seniors to complete their graduation requirements and to also be prepared for whatever their next step may be whether it is college, career, or the military. Seniors should continue to engage in their courses, completing assignments and projects.

Seniors will receive guidance on graduation projects as expectations are being reviewed. These projects are still a requirement for every 12th grade student, but may be adjusted during the current challenging circumstances.

How has the virtual learning program been working?

The program has been working really well. As you may know, a survey for feedback was sent out last week. There were over 1000 responses from students and parents to the survey. The

overwhelming response was positive. There was also great feedback that the principals have been discussing with teachers to be as responsive as possible to the needs of students and families. We appreciate your patience as we continue to learn how best to meet our students' needs in this way of learning.

Will teachers be conducting live instruction during our virtual learning?

Online learning often falls into two categories: synchronous and asynchronous. Synchronous learning is in real time, while asynchronous can be accessed at any time. When planning our virtual program, we decided that an asynchronous format would be best. This decision was based upon the understanding that we wanted to give students and families as much flexibility as possible regarding when they were completing their school work and not require them to be online at specific times. We recognize that families are in many different situations with childcare and work from home scenarios. Teachers are available to answer questions and give feedback during the day.

We have made the decision to not utilize live formats such as Zoom because of security concerns. There have been documented incidents of Zoom being hacked by outside individuals who have done very inappropriate things during the sessions. However, there are many other creative applications that our teachers are using to interact with students and answer their questions.

How will the work my child completes virtually be assessed and graded?

Our program is focused on continuing learning for our students. I have advised teachers to be concentrating on assessing and grading for learning and not just of learning. That means I want teachers to be more attentive to providing feedback to students rather than simply grading something based upon whether the student got the right answer.

While this format is different, the learning that students are experiencing is very important as we continue to focus on the knowledge, skills, and dispositions that are essential for them in the future. I cannot emphasize this enough.

How will my child receive support if they have trouble with a virtual assignment?

Teachers will be available for students on each virtual learning day at the following times: 9:00 - 11:30 AM and 12:30 - 3:00 PM. Students or parents should email their teacher with questions during these times and your teacher will get back to you to answer your question. If you need to look up a teacher's email address, you can do that here: [Avonworth Staff Directory](#) For students using Google Classroom, there are also options for posting questions to the class or just the teacher. Lastly, our technology department is looking into making Google Voice available for our teachers to utilize for contacting families.

How will my child's attendance be taken on a virtual instruction day?

- K-6 attendance will be taken by students completing daily assignments.
- 7-12 attendance will be taken by students completing the daily attendance Google form that will be emailed each morning by Mrs. Remensky. Students will need to log their attendance on the Google form sometime before the end of that calendar day.

My children are hungry and we are having a difficult time getting food?

We can help! Avonworth was recently given approval to provide breakfast and lunch to all of our students, not just students of families that qualify for free/reduced lunch. And, we are going to be making food available out in the community. Keep a lookout for more information coming from the Avonworth Food Service Department soon!

What if we need to reach out to school services, such as the nurse or counselor?

Your child's school counselor and nurse will be available during the same times that our teachers are available. Please reach out to them via email if you need to.

What should we do if my child experiences any technical issues with their iPad or Chromebook?

- Our technology department continues to support technology for our students and staff which has worked quite well so far.
- The technology department has set up an email that can be used to communicate a technology/computer related question or issue: tech@asdlopes.org
- Students can utilize this link to access basic support for issues with devices:
 - [ASD Student Knowledge Base](#)

Where can I find information from the district and/or resources related to the school closure and COVID-19?

We have created a page on our website to post communication from the District, as well as resources and information about COVID-19. This page can be accessed by clicking [HERE](#).

What if I don't have in-home internet service?

- Xfinity hotspots exist in our area. They have opened up this service to anyone that can connect. If you search for a wifi connection and see Xfinity, click and connect.
- Comcast is offering free wifi for 60 days due to COVID-19. People can sign up at www.internetessentials.com or call 1-855-846-8376. This [letter](#) also explains how to contact Comcast to take advantage of this offer.
- As a reminder, work can be completed at the convenience of the student and family. We will work with a family that needs assistance with regard to wifi connectivity.