



Avonworth School District School Closure/COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions

What changed that allows Avonworth School District to use virtual instruction to educate students during this school closure?

On Sunday, March 15, school districts across the commonwealth received direction from the Pennsylvania Department of Education indicating they can continue to provide education to students using digital/online instruction.

If my child needs something from the school, can they come to the school to get that item?

Our school buildings are closed. If there is an urgent need to retrieve an item, please contact your building principal. They will help to make an arrangement to retrieve the item only until 2:00 PM on Friday, March 20.

How are the Virtual Instructional Days different from the Flexible Instructional Days that we have received information about previously?

Flexible Instructional Days were designed to be used intermittently for a school cancellation due to weather or another emergent circumstance. With the current closure being a longer, continuous period of time and without knowing what the total length of time might be, we are preparing to deliver a continuation of learning for our students that will be delivered virtually.

The format for students in grades kindergarten through third grade will be the biggest change. Students in those grades received FID packets previously. Under this new system, they will be using their iPads.

How will students access their virtual learning?

Primary/Elementary:

- Parents that have students in grades K-6 will receive an email on each day of virtual instruction that will provide guidance on the assignments for that day.
- Students in grades K-3 will utilize their iPads to complete assignments and students in grades 4-6 will utilize their Chromebooks and Google Classroom to complete assignments.

Middle/High School

- Students in grades 7-8 will utilize their Chromebooks and access assignments through Echo.
- Students in grades 9-12 will utilize their Chromebooks and access assignments through Google Classroom.

What will the schedule be for virtual learning days over this week and next?

Our initial schedule for the first two weeks of the school closure will be as follows. An updated schedule beyond the first two weeks of this school closure will be communicated.

- **3/24-3/27: Virtual Instruction Days for Students**
- **3/30: Act 80 Day (no virtual instruction for students)**
- **3/31-4/3: Virtual Instruction Days for Students**
- **4/6-4/10: Spring Break**
- **4/13: Act 80 Day (no school for students)**
- **4/14: First Day Back to School (if the school closure is not extended)**

Will this school closure extend our school year beyond the current school calendar?

No. The Pennsylvania Department of Education has provided guidance that districts will not be expected to make modifications to their current school calendars. Therefore, we will plan to end our school year as scheduled by June 5, 2020.

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.

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.

Is my child required to complete his/her virtual learning assignments?

Yes. Attendance is required when school is in session. Although we will not have our students physically coming to school, our District will be operating virtually. The District is required to track student attendance when in operation and therefore, students are required to attend school which in this case means completing his/her virtual assignments.

If you have a unique situation, please contact your building principal to discuss this. We will be happy to work with you.

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.

Will my child need to be online working on their assignments from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. every day?

No. Students can do their schoolwork when it is most convenient for them and their families. We realize that the COVID-19 outbreak has put stress on families and that many homes have different childcare arrangements. There may be times when teachers hold live chats or lectures. Those activities would be archived for students to review at their convenience.

How long should it take for my child to complete his/her work each day of virtual instruction?

We have asked teachers to be mindful of the difficult situation we are all in, families are in, and the challenges students may face in completing work. Teachers were also asked to create assignments that are age-appropriate with respect to the task and the time it should take to complete.

How will the work my child completes virtually be assessed?

Students will receive feedback and a grade for their completed assignments based upon the guidelines and criteria for the assignment.

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

- Our 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](#)

What will happen with important events that occur at the end of the school year, such as Prom, Graduation?

At this time, we just don't know. This situation is continually evolving so it is difficult to predict the future or speculate about events. We are mindful, however, that these events are very important to students and families.

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.

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?

- The district is purchasing hotspots for families in need. Please contact your building's principal if you are in need of wifi access at your home for virtual schooling.
- 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.