

Continuity of Education Plan

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Goal of Plan

The Sto-Rox School District (SRSD) is committed to providing a high quality education to all of its students during the school closure. Because the safety of our students, families, and faculty are of utmost importance, SRSD has committed to moving completely to online education. Students will complete a combination of review assignments and new learning as a way to review and enrich learning, as well as provide new learning opportunities that will prepare them for the 2020-2021 school year.

Overview of Plan

During the school closure, Sto-Rox School District has decided to continue educating our students through remote learning opportunities. To prepare our students for the next year, it is important to continue learning new standards-based material as well as participating in enrichment/review activities.

Since the school closure was first announced, teachers and administrators have been working diligently to create opportunities for families to stay connected and continue learning. Each teacher K-12 has created a Google Classroom for online learning where assignments and activities will be posted. Teachers will deliver instruction through individualized assignments on their Google Classroom as well as using online learning tools such as IXL and Imagine Learning to allow students to learn at their own pace. Every child has an IXL account that provides individualized learning opportunities in ELA, mathematics, science, social studies, and a foreign language. Imagine Learning provides additional ELA and mathematics learning opportunities.

Students will complete weekly assignments and receive feedback from their teachers. The focus is on effort toward completion and feedback on learning.

Expectations for Teaching and Learning

Students will check in with teachers daily, completing assignments and receiving feedback. While students are able to work on IXL and Imagine Learning at their own pace, they are also expected to work on teacher-generated, standards-based assignments that will be a combination of review and new material.

Communication Tools and Strategies

Communication is key during these unprecedented times. The district has worked with local community groups to meet the academic and basic needs of our students and families. After quickly deciding to move to online education for the safety of our faculty and families, the district sent out a technology survey to determine the technology needs in our community. A district help desk and technology plan was also created to deal with issues related directly to the closure.

General updates are posted to the district website, released through Robo-calls, and sent out through the Remind App. Additionally, regular updates are communicated through the school's Twitter and Facebook accounts. For families without access to technology, important information is communicated through the mail. On Friday, April 3rd, the district mailed home information on each child's Confidential Student Login for Gradebook, Google and other platforms, how to access free internet service, and a number to call if in need of a device. A monthly learning plan with important dates is also communicated to families through all the means of communication described above.

In addition to general district updates, teachers have been contacting families weekly through phone calls, emails, and text to provide updates and instructions on how to access Google Classroom. As students and families connected to Google Classroom, teachers posted information online and continued to communicate through weekly phone calls and texts. Furthermore, administration and counselors have been in regular touch with children and families.

Access (Devices, Platforms, Handouts)

All students K-12 have access to IXL and Imagine Learning accounts. March 30, 2020 was the deadline for teachers to have their Google Classrooms up and running for students to access and complete assignments. Login information was mailed home to students, and a help desk was created to address technology and access issues. Administration and the technology department compiled a list of families without access in order to prioritize device distribution.

Staff General Expectations

Staff are expected to create a Google Classroom to monitor attendance through daily student

check-in questions. They are expected to collaborate in teams and then post weekly standards-based assignments that include both new and review material. They are expected to monitor student work and provide feedback as well as continue their own learning through regularly communicated PD learning opportunities. Administration meets daily and assigns additional tasks as needed.

Student Expectations

Below you will find an excerpt from the learning plan mailed home to all families and posted on the district website. This communication outlines student expectations during the school closure.

Since students and teachers are not permitted to gather in the buildings, the Sto-Rox School District is creating opportunities for students to connect with their teachers using technology. It is our expectation that learning continues during the school closure. Beginning Monday, March 30, 2020, all teachers will be utilizing Google Classrooms for students to access and complete assignments. On Friday, April 3rd, the district will mail home information on your child's Confidential Student Login for Gradebook, Google and other platforms, how to access free internet service, as well as the 3rd quarter report card. Please help us continue your child's education by reviewing this information, making sure your child is logged on to Google Classroom, and working with your child to complete assignments every day. If you have not received notification that your child is set up in the Google Classroom, your teachers will be contacting you this week to aid your family with the process. At any time, you may also contact your child's school for help, (412-771-3213 ext. 1000, 2000, or 3000).

Attendance / Accountability

The district created attendance and grading guidelines to address the unique situation created by the Covid-19 pandemic. Below are passages from the new attendance and grading policies that outline accountability expectations.

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory during the school closure. Students are expected to be online completing assignments beginning on Tuesday, April 14th. Homeroom teachers will log attendance based on the completion of a daily attendance question posted on the homeroom teacher's Google Classroom. Students must complete the question by 12:00 each day in order to be marked present. Teachers will then submit attendance to their administrator. Students and families should call 412-771-3213 in the event that technology is unavailable.

Grading:

In order to emphasize the importance of continued learning, the SRSD has decided to assign a value to assignments in each class. However, we recognize the significant challenges that families may experience during this time, including difficulties obtaining regular access to remote learning opportunities. For this reason, we are committed to working with families to be lenient in terms of due dates and alternative methods of completing assignments, as well as making changes to the weighting of grades to minimize any negative impact to a child's

grade for the year.

The assignments will be a combination of review and new material. Teachers have been advised to focus on providing feedback on student learning and effort, not simply on points for grades. Points are assigned to activities at the teacher's discretion. Students will be given a pass/fail grade for assignments based on completion and effort. Teachers will give feedback on assignments throughout the week to let students know if they are meeting expectations.

The Sto-Rox School District has created a temporary, modified pass/fail grading system for the 4th quarter of the 2019-2020 school year in order to hold students accountable for continued learning while still minimizing any negative impact of the school closure. Specific details are provided in the subheadings below. First and foremost, no child will be issued a failing grade and retained for the year due to events resulting solely from the coronavirus school closing.

Grading Scale

Teachers will assign points to assignments at their discretion. All classes will utilize the Pass/Fail Grading System for the 4th nine weeks only.

- 60 - 100% of work completed = **Pass** (Grade Equivalency - 90% or higher)
- 0 - 59% of work completed = **Fail** (Grade Equivalency - 59%)

Weighted Quarter Grading

Because the fourth quarter is not equal to the previous three, a 30-30-30-10 weighted quarterly system will be used, where effort in the 4th quarter represents just 10 percent of a student's overall grade. Also note the minimum grade for the quarter described earlier, which further minimizes any negative impact. Discretion should be used by teachers and administrators when lowering a child's overall grade for the year based on the school closure.

Good Faith Efforts for Access and Equity for All Students

The district is continuously working to find ways to fulfill technology needs for families without access. Sto-Rox School District has committed to providing timely updates through as many means possible as new information becomes available. During the school closing, teachers are required to provide Weekly Academic Plans where technology is not required and communicate these plans through phone calls. For example, teachers will provide a Plan for students to complete 5 activities per week (Reading, Math, Science, etc.), and proof of completion can be sent to teachers via pictures, text message, phone calls, or via additional modes of communication. A limited supply of devices will be distributed to families based on need, with priority given to seniors.

The Sto-Rox School District also applied for the state equity grant along with other foundational work in order to guarantee access to as many students as possible.

Special Education Supports

- Special education teachers collaborate with regular education teachers to modify and adapt assignments.
- Each special education teacher creates a Google classroom and works with special education teachers to provide adaptations on their classroom sites.
- IEP meetings for each special education student after the closure to update their learning plan
- Attempted contacts with each special education students to support their learning during the school closure

EL Supports

- Creation of an EL Google Classroom for all EL students
- Use of Scholastic online learning tool
- Weekly contact with students and families

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● Gifted Education

- Special education teachers collaborate with regular education teachers to modify and adapt assignments
- IEP meetings for each special education student after the closure to update their learning plan
- Attempted contacts with each special education students to support their learning during the school closure

Building/Grade Level Contacts

- William Schleicher, Principal the K-3 Primary Center, wschleicher@srsd.k12.pa.us
- Heather Johnston, Principal of the Upper Elementary, hjohnston@srsd.k12.pa.us
- Sam Weaver and Chris Captline, Co-Principals of the Jr/SR HS, sweaver@srsd.k12.pa.us, ccaptline@srsd.k12.pa.us

Resource Links