

April 9, 2020

Dear ECASD Families,

I am writing to you with an update on the At-Home Learning Plan for your children. As you know, since March 17, 2020, we have been teaching and learning in a virtual environment for 13 school days.

The COVID-19 school closure was originally scheduled to end April 3, 2020. Then, it was extended. During the initial closure, ECASD provided learning activities to supplement and review the learning that had previously taken place when students and teachers were together in their schools. Next week, teachers will complete these supplemental plans and begin to transition to new learning through students' At-Home Learning Plans.

ECASD teachers representing grade-level and subject-area teams have been meeting virtually to identify essential standards and skills that students should acquire before the end of the school year. They developed At-Home Learning Checklists. They will use the Checklists to help students successfully complete this school year and be ready to begin the next one in the fall. Teachers will focus on these standards and outcomes to finish up the school year whether the Governor extends the school closure or reopens schools.

This effort was influenced by principles we use to guide decision-making during the response to COVID 19: loving our kiddoes first, taking care of each other, and working together. As the teacher teams developed the learning checklists, they were meticulous in crafting plans that provide equity/access for all students and offer flexibility to families in the completion of instructional assignments.

In addition, the teacher teams built in provisions for sustainability. They created procedures for instruction to continue if one grade level or subject area team member must drop off the team due to illness or other unforeseen circumstance.

As teachers move to new learning, they will continue to send their lessons to you on a weekly basis via Skyward messaging or Canvas. Some students may experience additional on-line experiences under the supervision and with the guidance of their teachers.

IEP managers will continue to connect with families regarding special education services. Teachers will continue to provide Section 504 plan accommodations, as applicable. Please contact your child's special education teachers or Section 504 plan managers with questions you might have.

Teachers are also connecting with students and developing lessons that help students stay in touch with classmates. We in ECASD place a priority on our relationships with students. We are committed to supporting their social and emotional well-being as well as their academic growth whether they are at school or in At-Home Learning.

I hope that you are well and that you can spend some time with your loved ones this weekend. As you know, ECASD will be closed this Friday as scheduled on the 2019-2020 school calendar. School will also be closed for students on Monday April 13, 2020, for a Teacher Workday. As always, feel free to reach out to your teachers or principals if you have questions or you wish to talk with them about your child's experience.

Sincerely,

Mary Ann Hardebeck
Superintendent