



COVID-19 Update - Home Learning Plans

Tuesday, March 17, 2020

Due to COVID-19, Park West students will be at home instead of in classrooms from March 23 to April 9. Teachers and other staff are expected to report to work during the closure to help prepare student learning and assist with planning for when schools reopen. Schools will provide a variety of learning options to help students stay on top of their academics.

Students are just asked to do their best on the learning opportunities that are provided. If help is needed, please contact the teacher that is responsible for that grade and subject level. This work is outside of what is regularly being completed in the classroom. We understand that in some cases circumstances will prevent some students from doing all of the learning opportunities provided. Students will not be penalized or fall behind if this work doesn't get completed. It is, however, recommended that all students complete as much of the work as they can.

Questions and answers regarding the Home Learning Plans:

When will I receive work for my child to support their learning at home?

- Teachers are working to ensure that learning resources and materials are available electronically and in print for our students. We need time to coordinate and assemble these materials. They will be accessible for students by Friday, March 20th.

What will teachers expect students to work on while classes are suspended?

- Given that there will be 9 days of suspended classes (March 23-27; April 6-9), our focus will be on providing manageable and meaningful tasks that can support a routine, consistent effort by students to continue their learning. We know that it will be helpful for our students to maintain a schedule that includes some learning, some activity, some rest, and some play every day. We also know that the extent to which parents and caregivers may be available to assist with student learning will vary, and we will plan appropriately.

Does my child have to complete all the learning opportunities that are provided?

- Do your best. We understand that this will be easier for some families than others. We also recognize that children and families may be experiencing additional anxiety and pressure at this time. If it is worthwhile and helpful, focus on the learning opportunities that your child is most interested in. If needed, make the social-emotional wellness of your family the priority. Your child will be fine academically if the next three weeks aren't just about school work.

What specific learning activities or learning expectations will there be for students?

- For Kindergarten: We will provide some suggestions and ideas for play-based learning and experiential activity.
- For Grades 1-8: We will provide a package that includes reading and learning resources aimed at practicing and extending literacy and numeracy skills, and may include some grade-appropriate projects or explorations.
- For High School Students: Individual teachers will provide a one page overview that includes direction and support aimed at review and practice of important concepts and/or project-based inquiry and research.

How and when will teachers be available?

- During the two weeks of suspended classes, teachers will be at school during the work day to answer questions, clarify assignments, or assist with comprehension as needed. Students may seek support from teachers by email or by phoning the school. Teachers may choose to connect remotely with individual students or 'check-in' as appropriate. Some teachers may use online tools such as Google classroom or Zoom to connect with students.

What if I don't have internet or my child does not have a computer?

- Teachers will make every effort to ensure that students who do not have access to internet will still be able to continue their learning with alternative means. This will include sending a paper package home with students by Friday, March 20 (or mailing the package if the student is absent on March 20).

Will students be assessed on school work completed during the 9 days of suspended classes?

- No material is due during this mandatory suspension of classes, whether it be previously assigned work or new learning activities. None of the recommended work from these two weeks will be graded, but it is important for students to be academically engaged. The learning opportunities are intended to engage students, to make use of your time, and enhance your understanding and explore interests.

Will this count towards report card marks?

- Not directly. Attempting as many of the learning opportunities as possible will only help your child when they return to school. Work completed during the suspension of classes can and will be shared with teachers so your child can get feedback. For now, this is a short two week period at home and because families have different needs and accessibility it will be hard to assess work and place a value on it. If the class suspension goes longer we will reassess this direction.

What if my child receives additional learning support or accommodations?

- Please contact your school resource teacher to discuss what additional support might be available during the suspension of classes.

What if my child receives guidance or counselling support at school?

- Please contact your school guidance counsellor to discuss what guidance or counselling support might be available during the suspension of classes.

What about report cards and parent-teacher conferences?

- Report cards for K-12 students will be submitted to school principals by Thursday, April 9 and distributed to students and parents the following week.
- Parent-teacher conferences are suspended until further notice.

What might parents do to supplement the home-based learning?

- We recognize that families and parents will be busy over the next few weeks. However, in the event that students would like some additional learning opportunities, it is recommended that parents/guardians set up a schedule for their children at home so they can spend 15-30 minutes per day on each subject area.

Additional Suggested Activities for K-8 Students:

- Reading, or being read to, is an excellent way for children to extend language skills, increase vocabulary acquisition, and gain background knowledge.
- Journaling is a fun way for students to share their knowledge, ideas, and opinions. Journaling can be in the form of drawings, sentences, or paragraphs. Practice math facts with your students. Single-digit addition facts within 20 and single-digit multiplication facts within 100 are most helpful when students work in any area of math.
- Go on a math Scavenger Hunt. Take pictures of math you see around you. Discuss where the math may be in each picture.
- Play games. Many board games and card games have a math element. Whether you have to add points or make strategic moves, your brain grows with every game.
- Cook with your kids. Having your children help you in the kitchen not only offers the benefit of an extra pair of hands but also involves math. From measuring and sequencing to estimation and multiplication, the kitchen is a real-life school for kids of all ages.

Additional Suggested Activities for High School Students:

- Secondary students are encouraged to continue mastering the content in their courses. Now is a great time to go back and review content that was learned over the course of the year.
- Students should take time each day to read, whether it is a previously assigned text or a text of interest.
- Students should continue working on long range assignments. While due dates will need to be adjusted, these assignments are still active. If assignments are “group projects,” we encourage students to adhere to recommendations on social distancing.

Will we still get Spring Break off?

- Yes. Staff will only be available between March 23 - 27 and April 6 - 9, 2020. There is no expectation for students to do any school work between March 30 and April 3, 2020. This is certainly a year in which everyone will benefit from a well-deserved week of rest and relaxation.