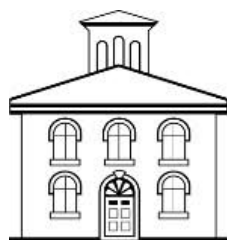


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## Remote Learning Update

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River Forest  
Public Schools

Dear District 90 Families, Faculty, and Staff,

As we enter into week four of the District 90 Remote Learning Plan, we sincerely appreciate your patience while we all adapt to teaching and learning under these new circumstances. Our staff has been working very hard to plan meaningful experiences for your child(ren) while also learning new technology platforms to deliver instruction. As the COVID-19 situation continues to evolve, the uncertainty of when we will return makes it difficult to know when life will go back to normal. Until that time comes, we are committed to providing the best possible experience we can for all of our students.

Our priority in District 90, first and foremost, is the physical and mental well-being of our students. We assure you that when we are able to open up our schools again, we will have a comprehensive re-entry plan to support all of our students' academic and social-emotional needs. As of March 13, our last day of student attendance, we had completed 70% of the school year. For the remaining 30% of the school year, our instructional focus is as follows:

- Reinforce and maintain essential learning standards that were previously taught across the school year. Some learning standards are overarching, are revisited across units, and are building blocks for future learning. Maintaining these skills is very important.
- Focus on essential standards that have not yet been taught and design appropriate remote learning lessons for students.
- Continue grade-level collaboration to ensure consistency and alignment of instruction to ensure that there is no disparity with content delivery across grade levels.

On Wednesday, April 1, District 90 conducted its first Virtual Institute Day to introduce staff to Zoom (among other technology options) to help teachers develop asynchronous (pre-recorded) and synchronous learning (real-time) experiences. The learning curve that is associated with the introduction of new technology is not the same for every teacher. Universally, our teachers want to be certain they understand and have a certain degree of facility with Zoom prior to its implementation. There are inherent challenges with both real-time and pre-recorded instruction, and our staff members are using their professional judgment to determine which approach is appropriate given the instructional goals. Both staff and students miss the daily connection the school and classroom environment brings. The ability to replicate that connection through remote learning while also ensuring the safety and privacy of our students is paramount. We continue to develop our capacity to remotely create these connections with our students.

We recognize that not all families, students, or even students within the same family will have the same experience with remote learning. In focusing our efforts on ensuring all students remain engaged in the learning process, we want to be responsive to families that find it overwhelming and families that want increased access to learning. It is a delicate balance to strike, and some learning experiences don't lend well to remote instruction. To address the interest in additional enrichment activities, we have created links to Parent Resources, developed by our Instructional Specialists and Technology Integration Specialists to provide families with additional resources. The Parent Resources links are located on the District 90 Remote Learning webpage. This page is a living document, and we will continue to update it on an ongoing basis. To access the family resources, please click the appropriate link.

[Learning Resources for Families: Grades K-4](#)

## Learning Resources for Families: Grades 5-8

District 90 believes very strongly in a culture of continuous improvement. As our experience with remote learning continues to build, we will continue to enhance our technology platforms and hone our remote instructional expertise. Because we are no longer face to face with our students each day, our window into student engagement and learning is less visible than it was previously. The family and school partnership remains as important as ever. If you have questions or concerns about your child(ren), please don't hesitate to reach out to your classroom teacher or principal.

Wishing you all continued health and wellness.

Sincerely,

Dr. Alison Hawley, Ed.D.  
Director of Curriculum and Instruction  
River Forest Public Schools, District 90  
708-771-8282

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