

Portsmouth Distance Learning Plan – Submitted and Accepted by RIDE – 3.19.20

What plans do you have in place to ensure continuous instruction throughout distance learning days?

Professional teaching staff, with direction from school and district administrators, have developed instructional plans to mitigate the loss of learning.

The core of our Distance Learning Plan will be weekly virtual playlists, to be posted by each school on Mondays at 8:00am. Parents will receive a Blackboard Connect message and students will receive their automatic invite as part of the Google classroom. The district home page and the individual school web pages will have a link prominently posted for access as well.

Details of the Distance Learning Plan:

Grades PK-4: Lessons will include Reading and Integrated Science, Writing, Math, and Unified Arts. Plans are broken out by days and are uniform across grade levels. Each day includes an introductory video from a grade level staff member explaining the agenda for the day. The general folder includes a folder entitled “Parent Tips and Tutorials” to be used as a resource at home.

Grades 5-8: Weekly Distance Learning Playlists will be provided for students in their Google classrooms. Distance Learning Playlists are documents which specify assignments that need to be completed, resources that need to be used and supplemental materials that will support that learning.

Grades 9-12: Google playlists have been developed for each course for a 2-week period, specified by day. These playlists will be uploaded to their individual course Google classrooms. These plans specify assignments that need to be completed along with links to the resources needed.

PK/Intensive/Life Skills Students will be provided with hands on individual learning materials that can go home to insure students can continue to work on their IEP goals and access the general curriculum.

Special Educators, Special Service providers (SW, School Psych, Counselors, Speech, MLL, SAC Counselors) have modified classroom activities and/or prepared targeted learning activities for students on their caseloads.

PSD Support personnel, including School Counselors and School Safety Officers, will provide telephone and actual home outreach to any students not participating in the distance learning activities.

In order to provide access and equipment to all families, an IT survey was and will continue to be communicated to families. A spreadsheet will be created of responses and the IT staff will provide a district-loaned computer when needed. The district is fully 1:1 in grades 5-10 and has the capacity to provide devices to all students in the district who need one. Resources for assistance with home internet connections are also available.

The district has developed a document that outlines staff expectations for communication and guidance during distance learning days. Office hours will be held each day at two pre identified times. Feedback to students must be provided by teachers. Teachers will take student attendance and report that daily for state reporting purposes.

The District will use virtual learning options across grades 3-12 where Google Classroom is the main platform for instructional materials to be posted. Other virtual learning options that the district will use include, Google Hangout and on-line software that students can access. Students at the high school level who are participating in Virtual High School will continue to do so. There are also several on-line enrichment sites that students have access to which do not require facilitation by an instructor (i.e.: IXL, Achieve 3000, RAZ Kids, Eureka Math, Freckle).

How will you address/support MLL students?

The District has a MLL teacher who will have access to all distance learning plans for each school. She will modify and accommodate instructional plans for individual students as needed. She will make personal contact with families to be sure that they have tools that they need (technology and instruction) to complete assignments.

The District has free Rosetta Stone licenses for MLL students and families.

How are you utilizing support staff and Teacher Assistants?

The District has developed a document outlining expectations for roles and responsibilities that will be shared with all staff.

How are you assessing and monitoring student work?

Teachers will be providing feedback to students and monitoring assignment completion each day. Teachers will be available for remote office hours each day and will be responsive to students/families for questions related to instruction.

There will be frequent communication with students and families by each school. Intervention steps will be utilized as needed to ensure all students have full access to their learning.

How will you support families to implement the plan?

Frequent communication has been and will continue to be shared by the superintendent, building administrators, and teachers. Throughout the first week of Distance Learning, the District will monitor the implementation of our plan. Feedback from students, teachers, and families, will be critical to the assessment of our plan. Adjustments to our plan and implementation will be made as needed on an on-going basis.

How will you evaluate the effectiveness of plan implementation and make improvements?

Each school will have virtual meetings during the course of each week with staff to discuss implementation of the district's Distance Learning Plan. This will allow staff to share successes and challenges and these will be evaluated along with student and family input. This information will be used to adapt and modify plans as needed.

Central Office administration will meet regularly with building administrators and set up checkpoints to review successes and challenges with the current plan.