



Virtual Instruction FAQs for Families

November/December 2020

Are the schools and district facilities still going to be open? Yes. All District and School offices will be open November 23, 24 along with December 1, 2, 3, and 4.

Is virtual learning required and how does attendance work for my child? Yes, virtual learning is required for all kindergarten-12th grade students except those enrolled in the Sharon Cyber Academy. Students are required to login daily and complete the online attendance form. Elementary students will find this form posted in the Google Classroom Homeroom. Middle/High School students will find the form posted in their first period Google Classroom. Students not logging in and reporting attendance will be considered absent from school.

What will virtual grading look like for my students? Grading for all students will continue to follow the District's grading policy, with students receiving numeric grades for all work completed and zeros assigned for work not complete. It is important that all students work to complete their assignments fully and in a timely manner.

What will virtual learning look like for my students?

Across the District, virtual learning will look much different than it did last spring. To be prepared for this possibility, all students have been utilizing a platform called Google Classroom throughout the semester. This tool is very effective in both in-person and virtual learning settings and will include a mixture of live meetings with teachers, instructional videos and assignments for students to complete and submit.

Students have already been instructed in the methods to log in, complete attendance information and submit all work. Details regarding instruction for all students will be sent by each teacher.

Where can I access information to help me better understand Google Classroom?

Please visit the Sharon Virtual Learning page on the District website under the EXPLORE tab: www.sharonsd.org/sharon-virtual-learning

What do I do if we have questions or issues with Google Classroom or the technology?

Please contact your child's teacher(s) with any concerns or questions about Google Classroom. Each building has a Tech Support Helpline for issues with the use of the Chromebooks and Hotspots:

Case Avenue: 724-983-4015 x5213
C. M. Musser: 724-981-4381 x3408
West Hill: 724-981-4880 x2307
Middle/High 724-983-4030 x1446

Will my student receive a school device to access their virtual learning? Yes. All students will bring home their school assigned Chromebook for virtual schoolwork.

Devices will be sent home after school on Friday, November 20. The devices include a charger, Take note; the device will go directly into backpacks. Sending a towel or other "cushion" in your

student's backpack might be a good idea to help your student safely transport their device home.

My family indicated at the beginning of the school year that we would need an internet hotspot to use for virtual learning. How do we get that? All families who requested a District hotspot in the event we would move to virtual learning WILL receive a hotspot to be used for student virtual learning. To borrow the internet hotspot you will need to pick it up at your child's school building during school office hours. A consent form for usage must be signed.

Will free meals be available for students during this time?

Free meal distribution will be available starting Monday, November 23. Please watch our social media pages and www.sharonsd.org for details.

My child has an IEP or 504 plan. How will this be implemented during virtual learning?

Your child's teacher(s) will be in contact to discuss your child's online learning plan.

Will the COOL and READ programs be open November 23, 24 and December 1, 2, 3 and 4?

No. Both the COOL and READ programs will not be offered during this move to virtual learning.

Will winter athletic/activity practices and events still take place?

Only Varsity and Junior Varsity practices will be permitted. All elementary and middle school practices and events will be cancelled during this time. Varsity and JV practices will be held in closed session with only players, coaches and athletic training staff present. Per PIAA guidelines, winter athletic practices and events may still take place as scheduled. Coaches will be in contact with students and guardians/parents to share details when applicable.

How can I access my child's medication from the nurse's office if necessary?

Please contact the nurse at your child's school to make arrangements for pick-up on Monday, November 23.