

United CUSD #304 Remote Learning Plan

Drafted March 29, 2020

Introduction

The COVID-19 Pandemic has created an unprecedented situation the likes of which most of us have never seen. We are proud of how our staff and community have rallied together to face this adversity and risen to the challenge to provide opportunities to feed our students and provide learning opportunities for our students.

Upon the closure of our schools, we implemented an e-learning plan to the best of our ability. That plan was intended to support students in the event of a closure of 1-2 weeks. We quickly modified that plan to provide support for an extended closure, and we will continue to rely on our e-learning plan for the remainder of the closure regardless of how long it lasts.

Communication

We will communicate critical information to our community using the district website (www.u304.org), social media (Facebook, App, and Twitter), the district all call system, and local media. Schools and teachers have also been using their school websites and social media accounts to communicate information, along with other web-based tools such as Class Dojo. We are checking email regularly, as well as the voicemail at each school and the district office. Please contact us if you have any questions and we will respond as soon as possible. The phone numbers of each building are listed below:

United North Elementary	482-3332
United West Elementary	734-8513
United Jr. High	734-8511
United Sr. High	734-9411
United District Office	734-9413

Remote Learning

As of March 31, schools in Illinois are required to implement a Remote Learning Plan. The following information outlines our e-learning plan, and how we will continue to support students through remote learning. The following link also provides a central location for email addresses and weekly “resources” by teacher. Please understand that those “resources” are subject to change given our unusual circumstances. [304 E-Learning Resources](#)

First and foremost, we recognize that remote learning is not an ideal situation. There is no substitute for the interaction between students and staff, and the learning activities that take place daily in our schools. This plan is not intended to replace that, but to be the next best option given the current circumstances. That fact is the foundation of how we developed this plan. Therefore, this plan is an opportunity for students to continue to be engaged in learning activities during the closure. It will only be successful if students take time daily to complete the activities provided for them, whether in paper-and-pencil form, or digitally. We strongly encourage parents to create time and a physical space for students to take part in activities regularly.

Second, we realize that this situation has put all families under a great deal of stress, and that varies from family to family. Some of you live in single parent homes, while others in homes where parents/guardians are employed in essential positions and therefore aren't home during the day. Some of you may have other family members living with you, and some may have family members who are ill, frail, or weak. And some of you live in homes where the mental health of some family members, such as anxiety or depression, may have an impact on the rest of the members of the household. We know that each family is different, and each family has unique stresses that are a challenge. Our commitment is to be understanding, reasonable, and flexible. There are some situations where we are limited in what we can do, but we will work hard to work with you as long as you communicate your needs to us. Again, you can do that through email, or by calling the district office or any of the school buildings.

Grades

One of the common questions during the closure has been whether or not student work will be graded. None of the assignments or assessments that have been provided for students will be graded, unless students notify their teacher that they would like assignments/assessments to be graded. In those situations, the teacher may assign a deadline to the assignment/assessment in order to provide feedback as soon as possible.

Guidelines

- Students should be completing some learning activities every day, as well as any assignment or assessment that is part of each activity. The State Board of Education has issued recommendations for teachers when providing activities and assessments to students. We will continue to use those recommendations so that the activities are reasonable in length and what students are being asked to do.
- Contact your teacher if you have any questions, if you want to share your work with them, or you just want to say 'Hi'! Teachers will be checking email regularly, and they are available to help during the closure, look at assignments/assessments, and say 'Hi' back. The closure is just as isolating for our staff as it is for you. Stay in touch and engaged.
- Teachers will not have "office hours", but they will be available daily Monday-Friday for any help needed. Email is the best way to reach them. They are not expected to sit at a

computer all day, so their response may be delayed, but they will respond as soon as possible; usually within a few hours or within 24 hours at the latest.

- Our classroom aides, or paraprofessionals, will be engaged in learning opportunities, too. If students have a question, or just want to say 'Hi', they can contact our support staff during the closure, too.

In closing, we will do our absolute best to support you and your students during this time. That includes responding to questions, connecting with you, serving meals, and being flexible. We know this is a trying time, and we're all in it together. We are hopeful that we can return to school soon, but please know that we are preparing for an extended closure if that is ordered. Complying with social distancing and other measures in order to minimize the spread of COVID-19 is of the utmost importance. Too many people have been infected, and have died. School is important, but nothing is more important than the well-being of our students, staff, and community. Stay strong, stay safe, and we will get through this together..#BeUnited