

Easton Valley Elementary School
Distance Learning Plan



Information &
Frequently Asked Questions
(FAQ's)

April 10, 2020

Reference Page

Message to Families	2
Frequently Asked Questions	3
• Is the school going to contact my student?	3
• What if my student or family have not been contacted by the school?	3
• When will school resume as normal and when will the year end?	3
• What should I expect from my child's teacher(s)?	3
• How will teachers teach in this format?	3
• What are students supposed to be doing for the distance learning plan?	3
• What has Easton Valley done to help families schedule learning time for their child(ren)?	4
• How will students/families access and respond to the lessons/assignments?	4
• What if we do not have access to the needed technology or internet?	5
• How can parents help?	5
• What about grades for my student?	5
• How will my child master key grade level standards that were not taught prior to the closure? Will my child be held back in the same grade?	6
• How will students (or parents) be able to contact teachers?	6
• How long should students spend on the learning activities each day?	6
• My student has an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). How are they being supported?	6
• Closing Comments	6

Message to Families

Dear Easton Valley Students and Families,

As you know, Governor Reynolds announced that schools in Iowa should remain closed through April 30 in response to the COVID-19 crisis. While we are disappointed knowing that it will be several more weeks before we see our students, the safety of our community and state comes first.

In response to this closure, our team of educators have worked extremely hard to develop a voluntary distance learning plan that will allow our students to continue their learning at this time. Our plan will include learning opportunities that go beyond many of the resources that have been offered through April 10, 2020. One of the key changes that you will notice will be the efforts of our teachers to engage more directly with their students. This will include a variety of efforts where teachers will be sending out recorded video lessons, scheduling online meetings, assigning learning tasks, and more.

We know that you will have many questions so we have created this document to guide you through this new experience with us. We ask that you please do your best to partner with us in this new approach to teaching and learning so that together, we can help your child reach their full academic potential.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to any member of the Easton Valley team so that we can continue to improve the educational services that we are able to provide.

Sincerely,

Chris Fee
Superintendent

Frequently Asked Questions

Is the school going to contact my student?

Yes. We began by sending out a survey to identify the needs of our families. Our staff has been calling families that did not complete the survey. As we transition into our voluntary learning plan starting April 13, 2020 all teachers will be reaching out to families either electronically or by phone to make sure families know about the learning opportunities that will be offered for their children.

What if my student or my family has not been contacted by the school?

If someone has not contacted your family by April 14, please email our principal, Mrs. Schmidt at patty.schmidt@eastonvalleycsd.com.

When will school resume as normal and when will the year end?

At this point, the district is planning to resume school on May 1, 2020. If school does not resume for the rest of this school year we will continue with our voluntary distance learning plan. If we find out we are returning to school this year we will be speaking with our staff, school board, and neighboring districts about the possibility of extending our school year to May 29, 2020.

What should I expect from my child's teacher(s)?

Every teacher has been assigned to a team that will be planning educational experiences, delivering learning opportunities, engaging directly with students, and providing feedback to students and families. The learning experiences will be related to key skills and standards that have already been taught. Teachers will take this opportunity to review skills that students struggled with and/or extend students thinking in critical areas.

How will teachers teach in this format?

Please remember that this style of teaching is new to many of our teachers, just like this is new to you. We are asking our teachers to use technology and a variety of different tools that they may have never used before. While it may be challenging at times and things will not always go smoothly, we are eager to learn alongside our students and families. We will seek to be more effective and efficient each day. We invite any respectful feedback that any of you may have to help us develop a system that best meets your needs.

In the end, we are all going to learn new things and be better prepared to meet any challenges in the future.

What are students supposed to be doing for the distance learning plan?

The Easton Valley School District recognizes that every family is unique and may be facing unique challenges during this pandemic. For this reason we have opted to encourage participation in the voluntary plan that will begin April 13. Participation is not required. However, engaging in the learning experiences being designed by your child's teachers will

be the best way to support their academic growth at this time. When students engage in the learning they will be expected to complete assigned tasks which may include; reading a book, responding to a video post, writing a response and submitting via pic or email, etc.

For families with limited internet access or those wanting a supplemental learning resource, we will be offering a packet containing grade-appropriate worksheets for students to practice key concepts. If you are interested in a supplemental packet please indicate that on the survey we sent out or email your child’s teacher. Please note that you will be responsible for picking up the packet from the school during a designated time.

What has Easton Valley done to help families schedule learning time for their child(ren)?

To help our students and families manage everything that is going on right now we have worked extremely hard to develop a clear and consistent plan. This plan will include a daily schedule of when lessons will be posted, consistent times that you will be able to access the lessons, and a one-stop-shop platform for all elementary-age students.

DAILY SCHEDULE:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
PreK - 3rd Grade Lessons	English / Language Arts	Math	English / Language Arts	Math	Learning Challenge
4th - 6th Grade Lessons	ELA and Social Studies	Math and Science	ELA and Social Studies	Math and Science	Learning Challenge
Specials +	Music	Art	*LIM	**SEL	PE

- LIM = Leader In Me learning opportunity from our instructional coach
- SEL = Social/Emotional learning opportunity from our counselor

CONSISTENT TIMES:

Teachers are planning on posting their content by 6pm the day before it is scheduled to be assigned. We hope that this helps all of you know what to expect so that you can arrange your schedule in a manner that works best for your family.

How will students and families access and respond to the lessons and assignments?

Our elementary team has created a distance learning website that can be accessed on our district's main webpage. The distance learning website will contain a link for every teacher in the school that will take you to each teacher’s individual page. This will allow parents to access a one-stop-shop of lessons and resources that students will be asked to engage in. On this platform teachers will be delivering a variety of learning opportunities to students. Opportunities will include:

- Video posts that ask students to engage in a specific learning task
- Read alouds and related student activities
- Online “Teaching” via Zoom or Recorded videos
- Assignment directing students to complete tasks within various online resources

What if we do not have access to the needed technology or internet?

As mentioned earlier, for families that do not have internet access we are happy to provide a packet of grade-level appropriate worksheets for you to assign to your students. The worksheets will not directly correspond to the tasks being assigned online. Instead, you will be able to assign and guide your child through the different learning opportunities based on your availability and your child’s ability level. Keep in mind, you may need to guide your child through many of these tasks. These practice sheets will not be collected by the school. They are solely a resource for parents to use to help students retain key grade level skills and concepts.

Our goal is to print these materials and have them ready to distribute by the week of April 20, 2020.

How can parents help?

Encourage your student to be involved in the educational expectations provided for your child. You can help them by....

- Asking your child about the expectations the teachers and the school has for them.
- Asking your child if they have completed the work.
- Assisting your child in developing a routine/schedule for class days, as this assists them in having some time set aside for learning.
- Asking them about the feedback they are receiving from their teacher(s).

What about grades for my student?

Based on guidance from the Department of Education, we will not be issuing grades for the last trimester of the 19-20 school year.

The work being completed at this time is not graded, but we do encourage students to participate.

How will my child master key grade level standards that were not taught prior to the closure? Will my student be held back in the same grade or classes for next year?

Students will not be held back a grade in their grade level. Instead, accommodations for learning will be adjusted when they enter the next grade level. Our team of educators will be working to adjust our curriculum schedule to ensure that when students return to school every student will be taught the priority standards for every grade level. In the future we will be flexing our schedule and revising the scope and sequence of our curriculum to ensure that we are maximizing our instructional time so that all students learn all the critical content.

How will students (or parents) be able to contact teachers?

Students can contact teachers with any questions by emailing the teacher any weekday. Teachers will be checking and responding to email daily.

How long should students spend on the learning activities each day?

Students in preschool through second grade that participate in this distance learning program should not be spending much more than one hour total per day on the tasks assigned by all their teachers.

Students in third grade through sixth grade should not be required to spend much more than one and a half hours total per day completing the tasks assigned by all their teachers..

Keep in mind, that we all learn best when we are able to take brain breaks. Brain breaks might include an opportunity to play outside, play a game, or have a snack. We encourage parents to allow their child(ren) to take frequent breaks from learning, especially for younger students.

If you have any concerns about the amount of time your child is having to spend on the assigned learning tasks we certainly trust you to be able to modify or shorten the task in a way that best meets your child's needs. If you need any guidance please reach out to your child's teacher for ideas.

My student has an Individualized Education Plan. How are they being supported?

Special education students are still going to be supported in various manners by the regular education teachers and special education teachers. Learning opportunities will be modified if necessary to meet the needs of the students, and special education teachers will be working with regular education teachers in this process. If you have a concern, please contact the regular education teacher or the special education teacher.

At this time, we will not be holding any IEP meetings face-to-face. We may do some virtual IEP meetings later this school year if needed, but that will be determined at a later date.

Closing Comments:

We hope that you have found this information helpful. If you have additional questions please do not hesitate to email your child's teacher or our building principal. No matter how difficult this may seem in the beginning, we are confident that through ongoing communication we will be able to develop this distant learning plan into a program that helps to advance the learning of your child(ren). Thank you for partnering with us during this unique and challenging time. Together...we will be better and more prepared for our future.