

Andrew CSD  
Distance Learning Plan



LEARNING TODAY TO BE LEADERS TOMORROW

Information &  
Frequently Asked Questions  
(FAQ's)

April 13, 2020

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## Message to Families

Dear Andrew CSD 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 Andrew CSD 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 me?**

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 all teachers will be reaching out to families either by email or through our Distance Learning Webpage that will be located on the home page of our school website.

### **What if my child or my family has not been contacted by the school?**

If someone has not contacted your family, please go to our website to find information about our distance learning plan or email your child's teacher and/or our principal, Mr. Kirchhoff at [brandon.kirchhoff@andrew.k12.ia.us](mailto:brandon.kirchhoff@andrew.k12.ia.us).

### **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 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 Andrew 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. 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 it 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 Andrew CSD 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 students (found under the Distance Learning Plan Link on our Website).

**DAILY SCHEDULE:**

Kindergarten through fifth grade teachers will post lessons and tasks on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday each week. These lessons will be related to reading, writing, math, social studies, science, and stem. At least one reading and math lesson will be posted each week.

Middle School teachers will be providing three educational experiences/mini-lessons per week for students. Each day's online learning experience will be modified to meet each grade levels standards or the teacher will create three individual learning experiences, 1 for each grade (6th, 7th, and 8th).

Special Education and Reading Support Teachers will post supplemental lessons on Wednesday and Friday each week. These lessons will target the needs of students who can benefit from additional learning practice on identified areas.

Special teachers, plus our counselor and instructional coach, will post three different learning experiences on their assigned day. Each experience will target the needs of students of different age levels.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
K-5th Grade Lessons	Post Lesson/Task #1	Post Lesson/Task #2	Supplemental Lesson/Task	Post Lesson/Task #3	Supplemental Lesson/Task
6th -8th Grade Lessons	Post Lesson/Task #1 Science	Post Lesson/Task #2 Math	Supplemental Lesson/Task	Post Lesson/Task #3 ELA	Supplemental Lesson/Task

Specials +	Music	Art	*LIM	**SEL	PE
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- LIM = Leader In Me learning opportunity
- SEL = Social/Emotional learning opportunity

### **CONSISTENT TIMES:**

Teachers are planning on posting their content by noon the day it is scheduled to be assigned. We hope that this helps all of you know what to expect and to be able to access the new learning during the time that works best for your family.

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

Our 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
- Assignments 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. Please indicate your interest in this packet on the survey that was sent out or by emailing your child's teacher no later than 4 pm on Tuesday, April 14.

### **How can parents help?**

Encourage your child to be involved in the educational expectations provided. 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 at the elementary level, but instead accommodations for learning will be adjusted at their entry to 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. All students will be taught all priority standards for all grade levels.

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

Students and families 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 their classroom and specials teachers.

Students in third grade through eighth grade should not be required to spend much more than one and a half hours total per day completing the tasks assigned by the classroom and specials 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 ways by the regular education teachers and special education teachers. Learning opportunities will be modified if necessary to meet the needs of the students. Special education teachers will also be posting learning experiences that better align with the skills your child needs to be practicing. We encourage parents of special education students to utilize the learning resources that will be posted on Wednesday and Friday each week. 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 distance 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.