

The Kids are Home... Now What?

ADVICE FOR PARENTS

MAKING THE MOST OF SCHOOL CLOSURE

Dear Parents,

Although we are sending homework for your children, the days are long when school is canceled. We also wanted to put together some suggested schedules and resources for you to help the days pass more productively. Just do your best, and that's enough!

Good luck!

PSD WIFI LOCATION

Connect in the High School Parking Lot: At the high school parking lot, vehicles may park and allow students to access district Wifi on district devices (which automatically connect) or personal devices. Please keep all students and family members inside vehicles while accessing Wifi.

A SAMPLE DAY WITH IDEAS TO HELP FILL THE TIME

*disclaimer: what follows is a pretty packed day with a lot of transitions. The purpose here is not to impose a structure but to offer ideas for how to break up the time. Think of it as a menu of options; pick and choose what works for your children and your family.

8:00 Make breakfast together

9:00 An hour of schoolwork

10:00 [DIY Science project](#)

11:00 Exercise! Here are some [Indoor suggestions](#)

12:00 [Creative lunch-making](#)

1:00 Second session of schoolwork

2:00 Round 2 of [physical activity](#) - we all need it...

3:00 Healthy snack & [DIY Crafts project](#)

4:00 Write, rehearse, and perform a play or mock commercial, or dress up time.

5:00 [Movie](#) or [TV](#) break

6:00 Prepare, eat, and clean up dinner; everyone helps.

8:00 Board Games/showers/read aloud before bed

LITERACY! WRITING ACTIVITIES ABOUT HOME

Either choose a school notebook for use as a Writing Journal (it's ok if there are other things in there) or staple paper together. Each day, your child should choose two activities from the list (it's fine to repeat activities). How long should the piece of writing be? Whatever your child is able to comfortably write in a 20-minute session. It will be different from child to child.

1. Pick a room (bedroom, living room, kitchen, family room, even bathroom!) and describe your dream version of it. What would it look like? What would it have in it?
2. Write a conversation between two people in your home, or two imaginary people, where one person is surprised by something in the conversation.
3. Write a conversation between two people in your home, or two imaginary people, who have a problem or disagreement that gets solved.
4. Describe your favorite meal.
5. Interview a person in your family about their childhood. Ask about their favorite: games to play, foods to eat, and music to listen to. Write it up in your journal.
6. Write a journal entry about how you're feeling and what your day was like.
7. Write down your dreams.

BAKING = GREAT STEM LEARNING

Looking for fun at-home STEM enrichment? Try a baking project (or any cooking, really). Use cooking as a way to discuss measurement and fractions. Is a quarter of a cup of oil different than a quarter of a cup of sugar? How many quarter cups are needed for one cup? What would that same measurement be in grams?

After you've done all the measuring, then you can think about the chemistry of cooking. At what temperature does butter melt? Or water boil? You and your child can generate hundreds of questions and answers about math and science by the simple act of making cookies.

Then, once those cookies are made, there are all kinds of story problems! If everyone in the family gets an equal number of cookies, how many cookies does each person get? What about the ethical dimensions of cookie-making? Who should get the most? The person who cooks? Who cleans? Who buys the groceries? Or should everyone get an equal amount?

FREE EDUCATIONAL WEBSITES FOR HOME

Sometimes screen time is a necessity if we have children at home and work we need to do. Here are three apps that make screen time a learning time:

1. [CodeMonkey](#): a game-based education program that teaches children to code. It comes with a membership fee, but there's a free 14-day trial that doesn't require a credit card.
2. [BrainPop](#): Online learning across subject areas for children in kindergarten through middle school and ELL learning for all age groups. Free.
3. [Khan Academy](#): Online learning in math, science, and literacy for all age groups. Standards-aligned. Free.
4. [BrainPop](#): Fun, interactive educational activities for all ages and all subject areas
5. [Scholastic Learn at Home](#): Interactive learning journeys for all ages.
6. [Legends of Learning](#): Superhero science games for grades 3–8. .
7. [MysteryScience](#): Answers to the questions kids ask morning, noon & night. Spanish translation available.
8. [NASA Education Resources](#): Never too early to start training to be an astronaut.
9. [Teach Engineering](#) - Did you know you could use Oreos to make a rover? Tons of activities to do at home.
10. [Bill Nye The Science Guy](#): Check out the section on Home Demos. I don't have all of these materials in my (quarantine) home, but I have quite a few of them.
11. [Switcheroo Zoo](#): If your kids are into animals and/or imagination games, this is a great site for you.

EVERY 10 YEARS

The US Census dates back all the way to the Founding Fathers and the US Constitution. Why? Because our system of democracy is meant to represent the people who live in our country, and the Census makes sure that everyone is accounted for when it comes to the services our cities, states, and the federal government provides. This newsletter shares resources about the Census for families and classrooms.

Please make sure to complete your Census forms, whether online, on the phone, or by mail.

Completing your Census form means that our school district will continue to get the funds we need to support the education of all of our children. Every one us counts, from the youngest to the oldest, no matter our background, race, ethnicity, language, or country of origin.

<https://2020census.gov/>



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