

GALATIA CUSD #1 REMOTE LEARNING PLAN

Galatia CUSD #1 recognizes we are living in a time that few, if any, could imagine. With the COVID pandemic still having significant impact on schools and society. In response to this pandemic, and guidance given from national, state, and local officials, Galatia CUSD #1 is offering a choice of learning this year in schools. Parents can elect to send their child to in-person learning or choose remote learning. Who should choose remote learning?

A parent may elect remote learning for any of the following reasons:

Immunocompromised child.

Someone living in the student's household is immunocompromised.

Student who can not wear a mask all day.

Any other concerns dealing with the current COVID pandemic.

If a parent chooses the remote learning option, they are agreeing to the following:

Students will be in the remote learning program for complete grade card periods (9 weeks).

Students will have to show attendance daily. (This may be done by logging into classes or other methods determined by the administration or classroom teacher.

Parent agrees they have both access to a device and internet access.

Parent agrees they have the responsibility of picking up/dropping off work and keeping all deadlines as an in-person learning student would.

Parent agrees the student will not have access to the building without appointment.

Parent agrees the student will not have access to extracurricular activities or other programs/classes that require students to be in large groups (Coop, CEO, CNA, Introduction to Education, etc).

The biggest question we have received in the development of this plan is why a student cannot participate in extracurricular activities if they remote learn.

The district takes the safety and wellbeing of each student extremely seriously, and we want to do all we can to protect every student. If a parent decides remote learning is the best plan for their student, we recognize your concerns relating to the transmission of COVID -19. The last thing we want to do is put a student on the athletic playing field or court where the chances of contraction may be higher. Additionally, the school has responsibility to assist in contact tracing in the event of a positive COVID case. It could be very difficult to trace students' interactions as related to the sport if students are taking advantage of the remote learning format.

A Note from Galatia CUSD #1

When I was a classroom teacher, each day that I walked into my classroom was a new day of possibilities...a day to welcome my students, engage in learning, and respond to their academic and social emotional needs. If only this was the current reality. Now, most of us are working from home. Schools are closed and we are not able to see our teachers and friends. This is hard for everyone. In an effort to stay connected, we are moving forward with a remote learning plan. A guiding aspect of this plan is for all of us to stay connected: Principals to teachers. Teachers to students. Students to their friends and family. It may not be in the way that we know, but it is important for us to continue supporting each other as we continue this journey together.

Introduction

Although, as educators, we wish to provide learning activities indicative of “at school” learning, the District’s focus is on keeping children emotionally and physically safe, fed, and engaged in learning. The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) asserts, “The focus should be on the continuity of learning and creating learning environments that are inclusive of all learners and careful not to amplify existing inequities in communities we serve” (ISBE Remote Learning Recommendation, 2020, p. 50). The ultimate goal of the Unit 1 Remote Learning Plan (which begins on August 14, 2020) is to provide direction, information, and resources to ensure all students have opportunities for continued learning that regularly engage them and focus on both content and skills. Students and families will be given routines and structures to continue a strong connection with their school community. District remote learning plan authors relied heavily on guidance from ISBE and the Galatia Teachers Union.

Guiding Principles

(Adapted from ISBE recommendations)

- All students and families will have access to quality educational materials and to the supports needed to successfully access those materials.
- Students will have access to meaningful/high-quality educational materials that align to State standards.
- Students and schools/teachers will maintain a personal connection that supports necessary, rigorous academic work in a manner that is respectful of students’ contexts (their mindset, feelings, responsibilities, home considerations, etc.).
- Support the whole child—their mental health, nutritional needs, and safety needs.
- Parents and other caregivers need access to clear information and ample resources.

- Teachers may need support, encouragement, and compassion to ensure their success and resilience.

Essential Instructional Recommendations

(Adapted from ISBE recommendations)

- Planning for remote learning that respects the needs of all students and staff.
- Implementing remote learning that attends to the diversity of our community to ensure that all students have access to equitable educational opportunities.
- Meticulously documenting the best efforts possible being made under the current emergency conditions with regard to students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) and Section 504 Plans.
- Structuring active student engagement with learning in accordance with the age-appropriate thresholds.
- Selecting content for remote learning that is aligned to standards, relevant, and appropriate for each student.
- Practicing consistent communication with students, families, and staff to understand how the health emergency is impacting them.

Essential Grading Recommendations

(Adapted from ISBE recommendations)

- The emphasis for schoolwork assigned, reviewed, and completed during the remote learning period in the 2020-2021 school year will be rigorous in nature and will be assigned a traditional letter grade and receive traditional credits at the high school level
- Grading will focus on the continuation of learning, prioritize new content, and care for students and staff. Unless otherwise offered by a teacher, students should complete all work and turn in the work the same as in-class students. Deductions of points may be taken for late assignments and zeros may be assigned. It is essential parents and teachers communicate when issues arise to avoid deductions of points and zeros being assigned.

Educator Commitments

As Educators are implementing this Remote Learning Plan, they will...

- Complete all required tasks, including taking “attendance,” providing instructional minutes, checking on students’ emotional wellbeing, and offering feedback on student learning. According to guidance from the Illinois State Board of Education, daily attendance is required for students who are on Remote Learning. We will have a Google Form that will serve as our daily check for attendance. If a student is sick and still able to complete their

assignments for the day, then they may be counted in attendance for the day. If a student is sick and cannot complete their assignments for the day then a parent needs to call in to the school office by noon to report it as an absence. If a student does not log in for their required daily attendance check in or a parent does not call in an absence by noon, the student's attendance for the day will be marked as an unexcused absence.

- Be available to students and families in one or more of the following ways: via phone, text, email, Zoom, Google Hangout, Class Dojo, Remind 101, etc. (Electronic communication platforms will be used in accordance with District guidelines.)
- Collaborate with colleagues (Teachers, Instructional Specialists, Social Workers, Psychologists, Librarians, et al) to address needs that arise along the way.

Student and Family Commitments

As students and families are implementing this Remote Learning Plan, we need your help...

- Having students establish and follow regular daily routines to the greatest extent possible.
- Ensuring students get enough sleep.
- Designating a specific space to work on remote learning activities.
- Setting sensible time limits for students' technology use.
- Reviewing communication from us as frequently as possible, but at least weekly.
- Completing assigned activities to the greatest extent possible.
- Discussing remote learning experiences and needs and communicating these with our staff.
- Daily attendance check in.

Keeping Families Informed

At minimum, each week teachers (or teams) will share relevant information with students and families. These may include announcements, deadlines for work or scholarships, etc.

The district will utilize their website, app, social media and all call systems periodically to keep students and families informed. It is highly encouraged parents and students check the website and other outlets frequently and call the school if questions arise.

Educational Content Delivery

Teachers will use digital platforms that may be accessed via multiple types of electronic devices (i.e., cell phones, tablets, or computers). Platforms chosen will be ones that students are already generally familiar with including:

- Email
- Websites & other browser-based activities

- Google Classroom Suite
- Remind 101
- Class Dojo
- Seesaw
- Edmentum
- Zoom for Education
- Videos or live streaming

Grading

Grading will be done on a traditional grading scale in accordance with the school handbook. Teachers will provide timely responses and work with students to the greatest extent possible to give quality feedback in a timely manner.

As Educators are providing feedback to students, they will...

- Provide feedback to support learning.
- Utilize ongoing, formative assessments to evaluate student progress and learning.
- Provide feedback to students and families that is specific and actionable to promote growth and learning.
- Provide feedback directly related to general education curriculum and IEP goals.
- Utilize feedback to support the mastery of essential skills and content.
- Differentiate feedback based upon student circumstances/needs.

Special Education Remote Learning Details

Principals and Teachers will determine appropriate structures for collaboration and instructional planning based on student needs as they may evolve over time. Instruction will vary based on the services listed in the IEP and the student's grade level.

IEP meetings will continue as required and can be done remotely as needed. If IEP students elect to do remote learning, an IEP meeting may be needed. This will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Digital Access and Devices

Families must provide their own digital devices and access. In electing the remote learning option in response to concerns surrounding the COVID virus, families are agreeing and stating they have access to devices and the internet.