



**GEORGETOWN-RIDGE FARM
HOME BASED LEARNING
FAQ**

Q. How long will virtual learning last? (8-11-2020)

- Students will learn virtually for the start of the school year and GRF will consult with health experts to determine if a return to in-person instruction is feasible and advisable.

Q. What's the difference between homeschooling and Home Based Remote Learning? (8-11-2020)

- GRF Remote Learning is NOT homeschooling. When parents/guardians choose to homeschool, they must provide the curriculum and all instruction. With GRF Remote Learning, the District provides state-approved curriculum, your student's teacher(s) will provide instruction and support, and your student remains enrolled in Georgetown-RidgeFarm CUSD#4.

Q. Do I need to fill out the Technology Needs Assessment for home based remote learning? (8-4-2020)

- Yes. The information gathered from the Needs Assessment will better enable the district to help meet the technology (devices, internet access, etc.) needs of our individual families, to the best of our ability.

Q. In light of the Covid-19 Pandemic, what is the plan for students to return to school for the Fall of 2020-2021 school year?

- The Georgetown-Ridge Farm School District will be starting the school year with full, home-based, remote learning. The district will be tracking corona virus data and reassess on September 15th to determine if students can return in person on September 21, 2020.

Q. What is the first day of school for students?

- The first day of school for students is Friday, August 21, 2020. Please see attached link to the 2020-2021 School Year Calendar.

Q. What time during the day will students be expected to log-in? How many days a week will students be expected to log-in?

- Students will be expected to follow their normal schedules, which will be given to the students before the start of school, Monday through Friday. Teachers will be using Google Meets to hold their virtual class sessions. Teachers will be live online daily. (PE and Music at Pine Crest will be a combination of live and recorded lessons). They will be taking attendance, grades, presenting material, and assisting students. Students without internet access will be able to call in using a phone to take part in the classes. Families can contact the school office to get the number and access codes for the classes. Our normal day will last from 8:00 AM until 2:15 PM. Students that do not log in during their assigned class time will be marked absent. The schools will be contacting parents of students that are absent.

If parents have questions for their students' teachers, they will be available during the regular school day, when not teaching classes. Parents are encouraged to email the teachers, or call the school office to reach the teacher.

Q. Will the district offer support for parents to help with the home based learning?

- The district will be offering professional development opportunities for students and parents both virtually and in a small group instruction.

Q. Is the district providing a uniform platform for home based learning?

- Yes. Students in kindergarten through 3rd grade will be using the Seesaw platform. Students in grades 4 - 12 will be using Google classroom. Teachers will be using Google Meets (grades 4-12) for virtual classroom instruction. Links for this will be included on Google Classroom. These are the only apps that will be used.

Q. Will teachers be recording grades during home based remote learning?

- It is the District's expectation that all teachers will have consistent expectations for providing instruction and feedback. Teachers will be grading assignments, assessments and coursework in the same way they would during a normal face-to-face classroom. All grades will be entered into the online grade book so that parents can track student progress through the parent portal.

Grading requirements as outlined in the schools' handbook will be followed for the purposes of promotion to the next grade. Students that do not satisfactorily complete all work and assessments will receive a failing grade for that class.

Q. Will the schools be providing breakfast and lunch for students?

- Yes. GRF will be serving breakfast and lunch meals at no cost for ALL students. The meals will be distributed via a curbside pick up. Schedule for pickup will be posted on the school website at a later date.

Q. If I have my own computer, do I have to rent/purchase a school Chromebook? Can I pay the purchase price upfront? What about families that can't afford the rental/purchase fee? What about families that do not have the internet?

- If you own a desktop computer, laptop, or Chromebook (or tablet for a K-2 student) you may use your own during remote learning. However, due to network security issues, students will not be allowed to bring their own devices to school. If families choose to do so, they may pay the full purchase price in one payment. Families that qualify for a fee waiver from the district will not have to pay the rental fee. The district will be installing wifi that will be accessible in the parking lots of the buildings that students will be able to access at no cost. We are also working with our internet company to hopefully provide wireless internet access at other locations throughout the district. Teachers will be using Google Meets to hold their virtual class sessions. Students without internet access will be able to call in using a phone to take part in the classes. Families can contact the school office to get the number and access codes for the classes.

Q. How will students' IEP accommodations be met during home based remote learning?

- The schools will ensure that all IEP minutes, accommodations, and supports are being provided. Our special education teachers will be working closely with the general education teachers to make sure that students' needs are met. Our special education teachers and administrators will also be making contact with the families to ensure that the appropriate education is being provided. All situations will be handled on an individual case basis.

Q. My child attends a program outside the district, what will their schedule look like?

- Students that attend programs at DACC (college express), VASE, RSSP or Circle Academy, will be attending school on that school's schedule. Transportation will be provided as always. To help maintain social distancing, students that attend college express will have the option of reserving a space on a school bus to be transported to DACC or will be allowed to drive themselves.

Q. I have already registered my child, do I need to register them again?

- No. You only need to register your child once each year. If you registered during early registration, but have not paid the Chromebook fees, you may contact your child's school after August 3 to get more information. Registration fees will be handled through the school office.

Q. How is GRF preparing educators for home based remote learning?

- Teachers have attended trainings on the Seesaw and Google Classroom virtual classroom platforms on July 16, 17, 23. There will be more trainings on August 3, 5, 12, and 18. Teachers will also be trained on how to use technology to

record lessons and post them on YouTube and then link these videos to Google Classroom or Seesaw.

Q. What role will the personal assistant and teaching assistants have in remote learning?

- Personal assistants and teacher assistants will offer educational support to individual students and classroom teachers at their respective school buildings.

Q. How will the district manage the social/emotional needs of students and staff?

- GRF will offer social/emotional support for both students and staff just as they do during in-person learning. Social work and counseling mental health professionals staff each school building.

Q. Will extracurricular activities still be held during the home based remote learning?

- Yes. GRF expects that all in-person activities will adhere to IDPH guidelines (face mask, social distancing, hand sanitizing). All IESA and IHSA guidelines will also be followed. Virtual meetings are recommended when possible.

At this time all IESA fall activities have been cancelled. IHSA has readjusted the sports calendar for this year. GRF will follow the IHSA calendar. You can visit IHSA.org or IESA.org for more information.

Q. What happens to state funding if students are not attending school in-person?

- GRF will continue to receive revenue based on student enrollment.

Q. What will the expectation for kindergartners look like? Will there be hard copy packets again for these students to work on? Also, will school supply lists be adjusted once they return to in-person learning, depending on when that may be?

- Kindergarten will follow a daily schedule that mirrors our typical school day that will include live lessons from their teacher. SeeSaw is a platform that allows for remote learning capabilities and we will upload links on the district website for more information. In addition to online learning, we will have some packets that go along with the virtual lessons. For example, there will be practice pages that students will utilize for the Foundations program. As for school supplies during remote learning, please purchase items that you are able to from the school supply list for future return to school. School supplies will not be shared among students.