

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year! We want to first thank you all for your patience and amazing response to our surveys and our opt-in form. Our families are what make Discovery Schools the strong school community that it is. Your feedback, questions, and support have been extremely valuable in helping us prepare for this unprecedented school year.

Our records indicate you have opted for online learning. Your child will be enrolled in Discovery Online Learning for the entire year. With such an overwhelming response, we know this will be an exciting and memorable school year! We have over 400 students who have opted for learning via Discovery Online 2020.

We want to assure you this online experience will be equivalent to our on-campus experience despite being 100% virtual. The rigor of our program will remain, just as it has been for the life of Kenner Discovery. We will have highly-skilled educators working with your students from K-12 grades. We are working diligently to also ensure the classroom is streamlined so that it's easy to locate, complete, and submit student assignments using OnCourse Classroom. Our Division Heads and Deans, along with our Counselors at all divisions, will work as a solid team to provide students and families with a well-balanced learning experience.

Discovery Online 2020 will have a similar calendar as those participating in on-campus learning, with the exception of the start to the year:

- Computer Distribution:
 - Beginning soon--awaiting the delivery of cases
 - More information will be shared about distribution/pick-up once the cases arrive
- Meet and Greet with Teachers:
 - Week of August 10-14, 2020 (Likely between 1:30 pm - 3:30)
 - Preliminary assignments will be provided for student orientation
- Official commencement of Discovery Online 2020
 - Monday, August 17, 2020

More important information:

- All Discovery students K-12 are getting a computer and case this year.
 - All students have a technology fee that helps pay for the management of the computers (protective firewall and updates), software (various learning platforms), and insurance.
 - Each computer will have a webcam.
- Online learning is a full year commitment.
 - Students will not be allowed to move from online to on-campus during this year.

- This is due to staffing assignments. Discovery is offering a Discovery education with some of our most seasoned teachers; not a prepackaged curriculum. We therefore need a consistent group of students in Discovery Online 2020.
 - May reconsider placement in January if the virus is controlled; however, we anticipate needing physical distancing and small classrooms through the remainder of the school year.
 - Instruction for online learning across all grades will include synchronous learning with teachers and asynchronous learning:
 - Synchronous: online at assigned time with other students and teachers.
 - Asynchronous: student works independent of teacher, but with support as necessary via messaging.
 - Students will generally spend 20-30 minutes per subject with a synchronous session and then complete the assigned work independently or with their learning facilitator. Therefore students will log off and on during the day as per their schedule.
- Attendance will be taken based on students' attendance for synchronous learning and their completion and submission of assignments.
 - Students will have independent assignments to complete on their own. Their presence and participation online in synchronous sessions with their classes and teachers will be more heavily weighted for attendance.
- Students are expected to be in uniform when in any virtual session with their teacher(s) or administrator(s).
- SPED and 504 students will be provided virtual support by SPED teachers and related personnel as stipulated in their IEP/504 plan. Our team was able to complete IEP annual updates virtually with parents from March to May. This should not be a challenge.
- A modified school supply list will be released soon by each division.
- Information specific to your child's division will be sent by the administration of that division (Lower, Middle and High Schools).

While none of these situations we are experiencing are ideal, we are happy to be sharing this journey with the wonderful families of Discovery Schools. Thank you for your continued support and strength as we prepare to safely welcome your children back to school.

From our HEART to your HEART,
Discovery Online Administration