

Frequently Asked Questions
August 10, 2020



DISTRICT 89

MAYWOOD | MELROSE PARK | BROADVIEW

HOW LONG WILL E-LEARNING REMOTE LEARNING TAKE PLACE?

At present time, we will remain with e-Learning throughout the entirety of the 1st academic quarter which begins on August 24th and ends on October 27th. Please note that there is a possibility of extending our e-Learning Plan into the 2nd quarter if it is not safe to return to in-person instruction. We will make this decision based upon relevant data regarding the number of COVID-19 cases in our communities as well as guidance from local and state health departments.

WILL THE DISTRICT CONTINUE PROVIDING GRAB & GO MEALS?

Yes! In a continued effort to maintain the safety of the entire District 89 community we will be offering a bulk pick up of meals at each school for 4-hours on Mondays from 9:30am-1:30pm. The grab-and-go program will resume on Monday, August 17th.

WHAT WILL E-LEARNING LOOK LIKE FOR MY CHILD?

Our e-Learning Plan has been refined and enhanced to meet the needs of our students while also following the guidance and recommendations made by the Illinois State Board of Educations (ISBE). This includes the following:

- A 5-hour instructional day (2.5 hours for our early childhood students) that will be delivered utilizing a blended learning environment of both live lessons and independent work;
- Teachers engaging with students online every day via Zoom, Microsoft Teams, Google Meets, etc., including time for community building and a minimum of 2.5 hours of live lessons (1.5 hours for early childhood);
- Daily lessons on all core academic content such as reading and mathematics;
- Daily support focusing on the well-being of our students;
- Regular student assessments

WILL STUDENTS BE GRADED AND RECEIVE GRADES DURING E-LEARNING?

Yes. In accordance with ISBE guidance grades will be reflective of students' attainment of skills and knowledge and mirror typical grading practices. We will return to using standard grades and letter grades.

WILL I CONTINUE TO RECEIVE PROGRESS REPORTS AND REPORT CARDS?

Progress reports will not be sent to families while in an e-Learning environment. However, please note that parents can always check on the academic progress of their child by accessing the parental portal on our Student Information System-PowerSchool. You may contact your school administration for information on how to set up and access the parental portal if you have not done so already. Additionally, we will have information available on our district website. Report cards will be sent home to families after the conclusion of the academic quarter.

WILL THIS IMPACT STANDARDS BASED GRADING?

Yes. The District had planned on piloting Standards Based Grading (SBG) with 4th grade students throughout the district during the 4th quarter of this past academic year (2019-2020). However, as a result of the current suspension of in-person learning and in order to effectively implement SBG, the timeline for piloting SBG for 4th graders will now be moved to the 1st and 2nd quarter of this academic year, 2020-2021. We will continue to keep our families informed as we make progress with SBG.

SHOULD MY CHILD CONTINUE TO PARTICIPATE IN E-LEARNING ACTIVITIES?

Yes. This will ensure that your child will remain academically engaged while onsite learning cannot occur. Also, as is noted in a previous question, students will receive grades.

WILL THERE BE AN OPEN HOUSE?

Yes, your child's school principal will be communicating the specific information such dates and times about the virtual open house with their respective families in the coming weeks.

WILL STUDENTS HAVE TO TAKE NWEA MAP THIS FALL WHILE WE ARE IN ELEARNING?

At this time we are planning on students to take the NWEA MAP assessment. Students in K-2nd grade will take it in person in very small groups and only 1 class per grade level a day. Classroom teachers and principals will schedule the exact date and time for each student. Students in 3rd-8th grade will be administered the test virtually. Classroom teachers will share specific information to the students and families regarding testing. Testing is tentatively scheduled to take place from September 14-October 9. Please note that these plans may change depending upon a variety of variables.

WILL STUDENTS WILL RECEIVE iPads or LAPTOPS TO ASSIST WITH E-LEARNING?

Yes. All students from Kindergarten through 8th grade will be receiving a device. More specifically students in Kindergarten-2nd graded will receive an iPad and students in 3-8 grades will receive a laptop. We are also working on the possibility of providing students in our pre-school programs with an iPad. The distribution of devices will be school specific; your school's principal will share more information on the distribution plan in the coming days. Families that do not have internet access at home can request a mobile hot spot, please contact your school principal for additional information. Please note that there is a limited number of mobile hot spots and they will be distributed on a case-by-case basis.

- In addition to electronic devices (iPad or Laptop), students will also receive consumable resources just as they would normally during in-person instruction. School principals will communicate the dates and times for distribution of consumable materials such as textbooks, workbooks, etc.

WHERE CAN I FIND ACADEMIC RESOURCES?

Additional resources and information will be updated regularly on our website in the coming weeks; www.maywood89.org/elearning/

MAY I CONTACT MY CHILD'S TEACHERS?

Yes. Your child will be placed in a classroom with a teacher. Early next week, you will be notified of the classroom teacher your child has been assigned. You are encouraged to contact teachers to check on the academic progress of your child. Their email addresses can be found on the school's website.

WILL MY CHILD CONTINUE TO RECEIVE SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES?

Services for our students with IEP's will continue to be provided in a virtual platform.

Parents of students with Individualized Educational Plans will be contacted by the case manager or a member of the student services department. Parents may also contact the Assistant Director or Student Services, annamarie.candelario@maywood89.org or the Executive Director of Student Services, suzzane.bement@maywood89.org. They will support you and answer any questions you may have.

WILL MY CHILD CONTINUE TO RECEIVE ENGLISH LEARNER SERVICES?

Yes. Students in a Dual Language Program will receive instruction from their dual language teachers the same as all other students. EL students in English only classrooms will also receive regular support from the bilingual resource teacher.

WHAT WILL DELIVERY OF LEARNING LOOK LIKE FOR STUDENTS RECEIVING SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES DURING E-LEARNING?

Staff will collaborate with families prior to finalizing each student's Individualized Remote Learning Plan (RLP). The focus of instruction should be individualized and based on students' IEPs, goals, modifications, and accommodations within the IEP. To ensure this differentiation occurs, there will be communication between special and general education teachers (including bilingual/ESL and dual language teachers), case coordinators, teacher assistants, itinerant teachers, visiting specialists, and clinicians to support students in accessibility and in meeting their IEP benchmarks and goals. During Remote and/or Blended Learning, case managers will reach out to families and send prior notice for each student on their caseload to outline the student's proposed Individualized Remote Learning Plan. Please note that the Remote Learning Plan (RLP) will address remote learning, but is separate from your child's IEP.

WILL I STILL NEED TO REGISTER FOR NEXT SCHOOL YEAR?

Yes. Families should have received a letter back in June informing them of their registration status. Additional information regarding registration was also sent to families last week. Should you have questions related to registration please call or email the school principal at your respective school.

WILL THE DISTRICT BE PROVIDING CHILD CARE FOR WORKING FAMILIES?

The district is working with community partners such as the YMCA, Small World and Veterans Park to provide our families with options for eLearning support and day care. Please note that these programs are independent of D89 and families will need to contact them directly. Additional information on all these programs will be shared on our website and via email next week.

WHERE CAN I FIND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT COVID-19?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has provided substantial guidance on managing COVID-19; please check the CDC's website at www.cdc.gov and talk with your personal healthcare provider if you have questions. Additional information can also be found on the Illinois Department of Public Health's website, <http://dph.illinois.gov/>.

WHAT IF I NEED MENTAL HEALTH OR OTHER COMMUNITY SUPPORTS FOR MY CHILD OR FAMILY WHILE AT HOME?

You may use the following resources to assist you with mental health needs and resources. The Health Connection HUB, sponsored by Oak Park Township Network of Care, can be found at: <https://www.healthconnectionhub.org/>. This website provides services for individuals and families including: senior and youth services, developmental disabilities, medical health care, behavioral/mental health services, and other social supports. An additional resource is the Community Memorial Foundation Crisis Text Line, to start a conversation with a mental health professional simply text NOW to 741741 or call 800-273-8255.