



Colleagues-

No one can say that teachers are inflexible or unwilling to be creative during these times. As with anything, change happens, and no one is better than educators in adapting to so many changes in such a short amount of time. You've got this!

Some things have changed since my last message:

- We are 100% remote. Cases continue to go up and safety is a concern for students and staff. Staff are expected to be in the building teaching remotely. If you share an area such as an office or room, and social distancing isn't possible, talk with your building principal about an alternative space.
 - **Instruction will not look like it did in the spring, as all students will have iPads with connectivity and staff have full understanding on of how to engage students on a virtual platform.**
 - **There is no guide on how to make this successful; you are the professionals! Use your skills and knowledge to make the difference in the lives of your students.**
- To address childcare needs, any instructional staff can bring their dependent school aged children to school. While instruction is happening, your children are to be working on their lessons on their devices. Children should not interrupt the delivery of instruction, nor should they be roaming the halls. Your children are to always be in your classroom with you. Have a conversation with your administration if you have questions about bringing your dependent children with you while you fulfill your duties for the district.
- **Masks should be worn when entering the building and can be removed when you are in your room by yourself. If another person enters the room, you must place your mask back on. You must wear a mask as you leave the building for the day.**
- **Time Allotments/Sample Schedules.** We have received emails concerning the amount of screen time for students. The district shared the designated times for each subject area as well as an example of what that might look like. This is a guide on how to utilize that time. The times can be broken up to best fit the needs of the class. Teachers need to instruct, students need to learn, and parents need the support to assist when needed. The only thing that

is not up for discussion is the designated lunch time. Specialist availability would depend on when they are in the buildings.

- **Keep in mind this is not TV/game time. You are not entertainers, but instructors. Students will be interacting with you in whole group, small group and independent activities. The ELA allotment is heavy on time, but when chunked allows for smaller pieces of screen time.**
 - **There is no additional time as you teach remotely when compared to in person instruction. Teachers are always on their game during the duty day with no breaks except for lunch and plan time. You are still given a 30-minute duty free lunch and plan time. One small piece of good news is that you will not have before or after school duties.**
 - **We continue to seek answers around the allotment of instructional time during remote learning.**
- **Plan time for elementary teachers should be 50 minutes each day or a total of 500 minutes in a 10-day cycle. If this is not the case, you need to contact your administration to resolve this issue. It is in our contract that teachers get 450, however if they want to have a grade level meeting or instructional meetings, the administration must provide time for the additional 50 minutes.**
 - **Plan time for secondary teachers remains as written in the contract and according to your building schedule.**
 - **Office Hours- Every teacher should have office hours except for some specialists, as they will be utilized to provide plan time for classroom teachers. In some cases, there is not enough time to assign office hours for specialists. Office hours are NOT considered plan time.**
 - **Many have asked what happens when students leave and don't log back on. Use office hours to reach out to parents/guardians to set the expectations for students participating in the lessons.**

There is no guide on how best to address remote learning. You have the opportunity to set expectations on student participation. What works one week may need to change. Great, it didn't work and now there is an opportunity to try something new.

Remember you are the professionals; the district is providing a guide with sample schedules, time allotments and how to utilize your office hours. Make a schedule that works for you and your students. You know what works. There's a learning curve with anything new and no one expects you to be perfect, just one who is doing their best to reach our students. You've got this! Be present and breathe!

Be well,

Robert
OEA President
