



## **Remote Learning FAQ**

Welcome to remote learning! Our faculty and staff have been working diligently over the break to provide our students/families with a comprehensive instruction plan during the COVID-19 outbreak. We have been researching best practices from schools around the country and are committed to the continuation of our school year from home (for now!) as we monitor this developing situation.

The first week of remote learning will include review as the teachers and students adapt to our new learning model. As everyone becomes comfortable with this new normal, new material will be added. Along the way we will ask for parent and student feedback, and we may make adjustments based on what we hear from the community.

We have compiled a list of FAQ below to help you get started on this journey. Please feel free to reach out to the teachers, division heads, Mrs. Guggenheim, and Mrs. Maher with questions or concerns. We are all here as partners to support your children during this journey.

### **Will the material covered in remote learning just be a review of concepts students have already learned?**

The first few days will likely be a review as we all get comfortable with our new normal, but we are committed to continuing the momentum of teaching and learning to ensure that students are mastering the new skills they need. Our faculty has been working to clearly identify the most essential learning outcomes for students, and they are building lessons and assignments around those concepts.

### **How can I help my child acclimate to remote learning?**

Start to think through and talk about the new routines that your family is developing. Family dynamics may shift as you will spend significantly more time together, and it is a good idea to talk about emotions connected to this openly and honestly by acknowledging that these weeks will be different for all of us.

Part of this new routine should include students getting up, eating breakfast, and getting ready for school before they begin academic work. Decide where in your home is the best place for students to complete schoolwork, and have students move into that designated space and set some formal rhythms to begin learning. It's helpful to have pets and other family members separated from students while completing schoolwork. Cell phones, televisions, and other

electronic devices should be turned off or put away. Also, remember that physical activity contributes to positive outcomes for kids, so look for opportunities to give your child a break and go outside.

### **How long should I expect my child to spend on remote learning each day?**

Based on best practices and current research on remote learning, we know that the remote learning school day needs to be cut in half for our older students, and reduced a little further for our younger ones. Remote learning activities should take about four hours for our older students, and two-three for younger ones. Our teachers will provide extra enrichment opportunities for students who want to go above and beyond, but if you find that your child is spending significantly more or less than the suggested time on assignments, please reach out to your child's teacher.

### **Do the lessons have to be completed at a certain time each day?**

It depends. All of our remote learning activities fall into one of two categories - synchronous or asynchronous learning. Synchronous learning refers to activities that students will complete together at the same time designated by the teacher. Asynchronous learning refers to activities that the child can complete at a time of his/her choice.

Middle school classes will follow a schedule and meet through video conferencing at designated times for synchronous learning via the internet connected to the teacher. Attendance will be taken for these middle school classes.

Our children in PreK through fifth grade will generally have more asynchronous learning to allow for more flexibility. Grades three through five can expect a daily video conferencing session with their class, but the majority of their work will be more asynchronous.

### **What technology is required for remote learning?**

For our younger students, many of our assignments are very low-tech. Internet access will be helpful for all students, and essential for our older students, as they utilize Google Classroom to view assignments, Zoom for video conferencing, and email for communication. Our middle school students have the option of taking home their school-issued Chromebooks. Depending on the level of demand, students in grades four and five may also be able to take home Chromebooks.

### **What do we do if we have a tech problem?**

At school, our students know that they can prevent many tech issues by taking good care of their devices. They are required to carry them with two hands and keep food and drinks away from these devices at all times. If you have a tech concern, you can email [technology@hancockdayschool.org](mailto:technology@hancockdayschool.org). Below are a few general tips that may help solve your problem -- If your wifi is spotty, try moving your device closer to the router. Restarting things (your router and/or computer) is another quick solution that can fix many problems. If a website won't load, try accessing it in a different browser (Safari instead of Chrome, etc).