East Greenbush Central School District

April 14, 2020

Remote Learning Guidelines

A big, big thank you!

For the past few weeks, EGCSD teachers and staff members have been connecting remotely with our students and families in order to provide at-home instruction and support. Throughout this challenging time our district employees have been working hard strategizing on how best to provide quality remote instruction for an extended period of time.   The East Greenbush Central School District realizes that our community is diverse in its needs and abilities to support all students at home. We are grateful to our entire school-community for its unparalleled commitment to serving our students during this unprecedented time.

The following K-12 strategies have been implemented:

1 NARROW THE CURRICULUM: We have encouraged our teachers to look closely at the content and skills that were to be covered between the closing of schools in March and the end of the school year in June. Our teachers and Department Chairs have identified the most important sections of the remaining curriculum. Faculty and staff will focus on essential topics that are necessary in order to best prepare students for the next level. **Our shared priority now is to prepare students for the next grade or the next course in a sequence.**

2 IMPLEMENT TEACHER-GUIDED LEARNING: Keeping the primary responsibility for education with our teachers is a critical challenge of this transition. We have encouraged faculty to narrow the amount of content delivered and we are committed to increasing the amount of teacher-guided learning. We are not opposed to some independent study but our goal is to provide teacher instruction and support throughout this time period of remote learning.   Parent support is of course welcomed but we realize that we serve a diverse population of families that are all facing their own unique challenges at this time. We will continue to refine our strategies by using a variety of e-learning tools. Our main requests of parents are: 1.) help your children stay connected with their teachers; and 2.) help keep them organized. If you can do those two things, we will be best positioned to guide their learning through the remainder of this crisis. Please reach out to your child's teacher(s) if you feel they are struggling. We will help!

3 MAKING REGULAR PERSONAL CONNECTIONS: We are committed to maintaining regular personal connections with our students in order to provide direct instruction and to help support their needs. This will take a variety of forms depending upon the teacher's chosen methodology. These methods may include: live classes and meetings, streamed classes, pre recorded lessons, screencast lessons, interactive blogging, and even conference calls. All students are expected to be connecting with their teachers on a regular basis.

4 STREAMLINED COMMUNICATION: Students should be checking Google Classroom and their school email at least once daily. When possible, teachers will communicate as a team to help reduce the number of emails being sent out. Parents are also encouraged to check their email and Google Classroom (if used) each day.

5 PROVIDE STUDENT SUPPORT: School districts are required to implement supports, services and accommodations, as indicated in students' IEPs or 504 Accommodation Plans, to the best of their ability. Special education teachers are working with their students' general education teachers on instructional modalities and accommodations/modification for assignments and assessments. Other support services will be delivered by "tele-therapy," wherever possible. Personal outreach to parents will be made via phone or email. Parents who have social/ emotional well-being concerns should reach out to their child's social worker, guidance counselor, and principal.

For any student or family seeking non-emergency mental health support please email the following: mental_health_support@egcsd.org to connect with a provider

GENERAL STUDENT SCHOOL WORK EXPECTATIONS:

GRADES K-2	GRADES 3-5	GRADES 6-8	GRADES 9-12
1 to 2 hours per school day of ELA, math, and other academic work including any virtual class meetings, computer work, and/or print materials assigned. Special Areas will provide students with developmentally appropriate activities to explore.	**1 ½ to 2 ½ hours** per school day of ELA, math, and other academic work including any virtual class meetings, computer work, and/or print materials assigned. Special Areas will provide students with developmentally appropriate activities to explore.	**2 to 3 hours** per school day on screen time, total of all work assigned including any virtual class time.	**15 to 20 minutes** of work per class per school day, per class enrolled during the 4th quarter (Limited to 4 hours total for all classes combined)

WHAT STUDENT-TEACHER CONNECTIONS WILL LOOK LIKE DURING THIS TIME:

Teachers and Staff will continue to make personal connections with students using a variety of platforms including Google Meet (Live or recorded), live streaming, screencasting, emails, phone calls, etc. These connections will allow us to present new content or skills as well as allow students to connect to their teachers and classmates. Students have the ability to ask questions and maintain important personal relationships.

We're here to help! We've gathered a collection of resources, tutorials, and tools related to instructional technology and remote learning.

Please continue to visit egcsd.org/coronavirus to access the most current information and available resources.

ASSESSMENTS, REPORT CARDS, and GRADING

ASSESSMENTS	REPORT CARDS	GRADING
NYS Grades 3-8 and June Regents Exams are cancelled. Advanced Placement exams will be given online.	The 2nd of 3 marking periods for grades **Kindergarten through Grade 5** ended on March 3, 2020. The 3rd and final marking period's report card will be a narrative report that addresses mathematics, reading, and writing. The narrative report will also allow teachers to provide comments on each student's overall academic performance throughout the 2019-2020 school-year.	**Kindergarten through Grade 5**: Teachers will continue to grade student work during the 3rd marking period and provide students and parents with relevant feedback on the work that was submitted.
EGCSD Administration is reviewing the impact of the cancellation of these assessments on each student and will be communicating directly with parents and students as soon as possible. We appreciate your patience. *Information on all assessments can be found our district webpage: egcsd.org/coronavirus*	The 3rd of 4 marking periods for **Grades 6 through 12** ended on April 3, 2020. If an assignment was submitted during the 3rd quarter while students were learning online, and if the grade on that assignment helped the child's overall average, that assignment could be graded and be counted.	**Grades 6 through 12**: Teachers will continue to grade student work during the 4th quarter and provide students and parents with relevant feedback on the work that was submitted EGCSD Administration along with faculty are reviewing the impacts of remote learning on student's 4th marking period grades and overall averages. We are discussing all options as well as the possible short term and long term impact of these decisions. We are striving to ensure equity and academic integrity while best meeting students' needs in preparing our students for the next grade and post graduation expectations.

A SAMPLING OF TOOLS BEING UTILIZED:

Flipped Learning Model - A pedagogical approach in which direct instruction moves from the group learning space to the individual learning space.

Google Meet - Available either live or recorded sessions to perform instruction or to discuss content with students.

Google Classroom - Allows for true social learning to occur and to have a centralized approach to assignments, assessments and content.

Screencastify - Allows teachers to record operational steps and to voice annotate at the same time.

Reflex Math - Allows students to achieve proficiency with their math facts in a rewarding game atmosphere.

Newsela - Current events approach to ELA, engaging material at a variety of lexile levels, online assessment of standards aligned skills.

NearPod - Allows student learning to occur at their own pace and a variety of other tools

Pearson Realize - Learning management system for standards-aligned content.

Raz-Kids - Provides comprehensive reading resources for students to listen to, read at their own pace, and record themselves reading.

Headsprout - Interactive online episodes to teach K-5 students reading fundamentals and comprehension skills.

Office Hours - Increases access to teachers for guidance and support. In some cases the availability of teachers may be greater than in real life.