

Moving Forward: At-Home Digital Learning for Orchard Middle School Students Beginning April 6

As we communicated on Monday, the week of April 6 begins our next phase of learning for Orchard students at home. This message contains several important pieces of information to ensure your student at Orchard Middle School can access all necessary learning materials, lessons, assignments and assessments.

This information will be communicated again as we get closer to each date listed. We are sending this message now to allow families to plan ahead. The key for everyone is flexibility. We will keep learning continuing for students, but this will not be an exact replica of the day they experienced at school. We understand the challenges families are experiencing and appreciate your partnership as we embark together on a fuller implementation of learning at home for students.

This week is still spring break. Next week, March 30-April 3, Orchard students continue their assignments as posted on teacher websites and Google Classrooms as announced at the beginning of the mandated school closure.

Information to prepare for April 6

Topic areas covered in this message include:

- Orchard Remote Learning – Literacy, Math, Social Studies/Science
- Orchard Remote Learning – Specials Classes Physical Education, Art and Music
- Accessing Google Classroom (Parent/Student Access Instructions) – All Orchard students already know how to access Google Classroom
- Connecting Teachers and Students – Office Hours and Feedback
- Additional Chromebook/Material Pick-Up Opportunity (must complete the request form: <https://forms.gle/iwgU1wJhqymq17n6>)
- Sixth Grade Camp

Orchard Remote Learning – Literacy, Math, Social Studies/Science

Orchard students will see lessons posted in their teachers' Google Classrooms each school day. Our Orchard literacy, math and social studies content area teams are working together to create and post video lessons. The teachers will rotate posting of the lessons, so each day your child will see or hear a different member of the team presenting the lesson. Regardless of which teacher presents the lesson, your child's connection remains to his or her own teacher for questions and feedback. For students, the lessons will resemble what they are used to from their classroom learning.

Literacy: Fifth and sixth grade students will read independently for 30 minutes a day. The daily lesson will be in either reading or writing. This is exactly the same structure they are used to seeing now. Students will share their reading progress and writing activities with their teacher.

Math: Students will watch a daily video lesson with a math teacher, who will explain the concepts, assist with guided practice problems and outline independent practice problems. The practice problems will

be completed and submitted within their teacher's Google Classroom. This is the same format students are used to now in their classroom math workshop.

Again, the goal is to keep the overall learning structure as familiar as possible for students, despite the shift to learning at home.

Social Studies/Science: Lessons in social studies or science will be posted daily by a teacher on the team. The content teachers will explain the topics and provide guided practice. Students will submit their work in their teacher's Google Classroom.

Orchard Remote Learning for Specials Classes – Physical Education, Art and Music

Fifth and sixth grade students will also participate in their specials classes each week. Weekly lessons in physical education, art and music will be posted in the specials teachers' Google Classrooms.

Students are able to engage in these lessons at any time during the week, however, new lessons will be posted using the following schedule:

- Monday – Music
- Tuesday – Art
- Wednesday – Physical Education

Students whose specials teacher did not yet have a Google Classroom this year will receive the invitation to join the Classroom from Mrs. Mineard by April 3.

Getting Full At-Home Digital Learning Started - Accessing Google Classroom

All Orchard students have been using Google Classroom this year. Please have your child contact their teacher directly if they are having difficulty accessing the Classroom. A Google Classroom tutorial is posted below.

Parent/Student Tutorial to Enter Google Classroom:

<https://www.solonschools.org/cms/lib/OH01814653/Centricity/Domain/4/Classroom.pdf>

Connecting Teachers and Students – Office Hours and Feedback

Orchard is very quiet and we miss the students. We also have heard from families that students are missing the connection with their teachers and classmates.

If students need help with assignments or understanding concepts, they should contact their teachers any time via email and especially during office hours. Teachers will provide feedback on students' work through Google Classroom.

Each day school is in session, teachers and other school staff members will be available during specified "Office Hours" to answer student and parent questions, help with learning and provide feedback. The

schedule is meant to provide both structure and flexibility for families who have more than one child learning at home during the mandated school closure.

Orchard Office Hours Schedule – Each day school is in session

Literacy: 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Math: 10 a.m. to noon

Physical Education: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Social Studies/Science: noon to 2 p.m.

Art and Music: 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Guidance/School Counselors: Noon to 2 p.m.

Interventionists: Two hours daily as communicated directly to parents/guardians by the interventionist

Building Principal: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Families should contact Mrs. Mineard at any time with any pressing questions or concerns.)

As always, teachers and other school staff members are available via email or Google Classroom to respond to questions from students (and parents). Families can expect a reply within 24 hours.

Technology Access at Home

Moving fully to a digital platform may present significant challenges for some of our families. Please be sure to contact Mrs. Mineard immediately if you do not have Internet access at home so the school can put a plan in place for your child's continued learning at home.

Additional Chromebook/Materials Pick-Up Opportunity

If your child forgot his or her Chromebook or other important item at school, such as an instrument, please contact Mrs. Mineard using the following Google form <https://forms.gle/iwgU1wJjhqymq17n6>

Sixth Grade Camp

We know our Orchard sixth graders are looking forward to their camp experience in May. At this time, we have not yet cancelled camp. As soon as we get more definitive guidance on the length of the stay-at-home order and continued physical distancing measures from the Governor and Ohio Department of Health, we will be able to make a final decision. We will communicate that decision to sixth grade families immediately when the decision is made.

Please be sure to contact Mrs. Mineard at any time with questions or concerns at cariannmineard@solonboe.org

More Details and Reminders to Come Next Week.