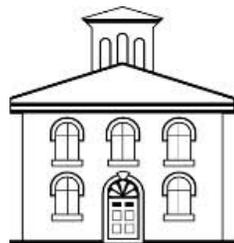




Next Steps with E-Learning

Thu, Mar 19, 2020 at 7:23 PM



River Forest
Public Schools

Dear District 90 Families, Faculty, and Staff,

I have received many emails from families expressing their gratitude to our amazing faculty and administration for their unwavering commitment in implementing this week's E-Learning activities. Teachers and families alike have been working hard to provide and reinforce the instructional content that was prepared this week for students. Please accept my profound thanks for the many words of appreciation that have been sent to our faculty, staff, and administrators – they have been very meaningful.

Over the course of the week, our teachers were focused predominantly on strengthening students' understanding of instructional content to which they have already been exposed. Without some past experience in remote learning, it is a lot to ask for students to learn new content while also adjusting to an entirely different way of learning at the same time.

Yet, it has become apparent that our students, staff, and families are ready for a more robust deployment of our E-Learning initiative. We are quickly moving toward the point where we will need to begin delivering new content to ensure that our students continue progressing. This can only happen if teachers have the ability to deliver instruction in a more flexible manner. Teachers have especially indicated the need to have additional, online teaching tools available to them. Toward this goal, District 90 has been evaluating several video and audio conferencing options and is in the final stages of selecting the preferred platforms. While there are many alternatives available, the District has strict protocols in place to protect student data privacy, and it has taken some time to ensure that any new collaboration/instructional tools we wish to use will comport with our rigorous student privacy standards. I'm pleased to share that the District has selected two preferred platforms and is preparing to make them available for teachers in the coming days.

To support the proper implementation of these new tools for teaching and learning, D90 will be suspending E-Learning activities on Wednesday, April 1, to conduct a "Virtual Teacher Institute Day." The purpose of this day will be to provide teachers with the frameworks and training that will allow them to use the new platforms in the most appropriate and effective way for their students. Please know that we understand the gravity of this decision. However, we must continue to develop and refine the E-Learning program so that it meets the ongoing needs of our students. Providing our teaching professionals with adequate time and space to build muscle around virtual instruction is the most responsible and strategic pathway to expand our E-Learning capacity at this time. On this Institute Day, time will also be set aside for teachers to collaborate virtually on unit and lesson planning.

To better understand your opinions about the E-Learning initiative, we are requesting your help. Please take 5-7 minutes to complete a parent/family survey soliciting your feedback about the "successes and challenges" from our first week of E-Learning. Please click this link to complete the survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DHCNNT5>

Please remember that students will not be participating in E-Learning during Spring Break. We will return to E-Learning on Monday, March 30 through Friday, April 3, with Wednesday (April 1) serving as the "Virtual Teacher Institute Day." Please continue to visit the District's website (district90.org) and monitor your email/voice mail for messages from District 90.

Thank you for all that you are doing to support our extraordinary school community.

Respectfully,

Ed Condon, Ph.D.
Superintendent

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