



WissNation Family Update #1 - A Focus on Teaching & Learning

March 14, 2020

Hello, Wissahickon Parents/Guardians,

In our efforts to keep our families up to date during this Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak and the resulting school closure (3/13–3/27), I want to provide you with important information regarding our teachers' efforts to develop our *At Home Learning Plan* for our students. While we had planned to use the afternoon of Friday, March 13, for teachers to collaboratively develop these plans, the Governor's order to close schools at the end of day on Thursday negated that possibility. As such our teachers are now working from home with their grade-level teammates and department colleagues to collaboratively develop these *At Home Learning Plans*.

These *At Home Learning Plans (AHLP)* are being developed for one week at a time. The learning experiences included in the AHLP will provide students with the opportunity to practice and reinforce previously taught skills, content, and concepts. Our faculty are working collaboratively to ensure consistency at each grade level across the four elementary schools and within the content departments of the middle and high schools. This AHLP's are being developed using a range of collaboration tools since our faculty are working from their homes and not permitted back into the schools.

What can you expect in these *At Home Learning Plans*?

The Elementary (K-5) AHLP will include the following components:

- English-Language Arts Learning Experiences that focus on reading and writing.
- Mathematics Learning Experiences that focus on the reinforcement of grade-appropriate skills, problem-solving, and concepts. There will also be some review lessons for continued practice.
- A Menu of Optional Learning Experiences in the areas of art, health and physical education, library, music, science and/or social studies, and STEM.

The Secondary AHLP (6-8) will include the learning experiences in the following courses:

- English-Language Arts
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social Studies
- World Language
- A Menu of Optional Learning Experiences in the areas of art, business & technology, family consumer science, health and physical education, and music.

Again, these plans are being developed over the next couple of weeks. These *At Home Learning Plans* will be shared with students if the current school closure is extended beyond Friday, March 27. If the school closure continues, our elementary teachers will send families the appropriate AHLP via e-mail. Secondary teachers will post their AHLP in the Schoology Learning Management System. This is the usual way that our students learn about an assignment. We know that some of our families require hard copies of communications sent from the school to their homes, and each school maintains a list of these families. This information is gathered during the school district's August Back to School communications. If we do not have the information for your family, we encourage you to let your teacher or principal know so that you can be added to the mailing list. Perhaps some assistance from a friend or neighbor could also be helpful in getting this information to the teacher or principal.



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Important Information About the AHLP's

- The work sent at the elementary level should include approximately 3 hours of work daily; the work sent at the middle school and high school level should include approximately 3-4 hours of work daily.
- The student should be able to successfully complete the work independently.
- These learning experiences are designed so that printing at home will not be necessary.
- The AHLP will include work for a one-week period. If the school closure is extended for an additional week, another AHLP will be shared with students as indicated above.

Some Additional Information

- Any previously assigned homework/assignment/project/paper with a due date during the 3/13 and 3/30 period is no longer due as assigned. The teacher will adjust these due dates to be no earlier than 3/31. If our school closure extends beyond 3/30, your teacher will clarify any adjustment to that date.
- Given the unprecedented close of all schools in Pennsylvania, there will likely be some kind of adjustment to the marking period windows. However, until we know the how many days the school closure will last, we cannot adjust these in a way that would make sense at this time. More information will be needed.

While students are home over the next couple of weeks, these are some learning options for your child(ren). All of these are familiar learning experiences for your child and will keep them thinking while our faculty work to develop the At Home Learning Plans for use on 3/30 and beyond.

- Encourage your child to read a book (or 4 as Dr. Crisfield suggested). Take time to discuss the book with your child – the setting, the characters, the problem, the solution. How does your child connect with the reading?
- Elementary students can log onto Reflex Math, First in Math, EDM Games On-line, Math Fact Flash Cards, Khan Mappers, and <https://www.splashlearn.com/>
- Primary Grades (K-2) enjoy *Go Noodle* where there are lots of fun counting songs and some physical exercise as well.
- More Learning Activities for Elementary Students: docs.google.com/document/d/1o6...
- Middle Level (6-8) Big Ideas Math: <https://www.bigideasmath.com/BIM/login>
- Secondary students can continue working on current assignments or those due in a few weeks.

During this school closure, your child's teachers and administrators are available through e-mail. Should you have a question that has not been answered in this update, please contact one of them to answer your question or point you in the right direction. I trust that this update has given you some helpful ideas for keeping your child thinking and learning. That's it for now. Be safe!

Regards,



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