



WissNation – Family Update #3
A Focus on Teaching & Learning
March 26, 2020

Hello, Wissahickon Parents/Guardians,

On Monday morning, our teachers will share with you the *At Home Learning Plans* (AHL Plan) that they have prepared for their students. Together with their colleagues, they have crafted a blend of learning experiences to engage your child(ren). Some of the work will be a review of previously taught material while some will introduce new learning. Given that this remote teaching and learning will be new for both students and teachers, we view the week of March 30 as an opportunity to slowly ease into this approach. Our families will figure out how to best structure the child’s day with regard to their schoolwork, and our teachers will be involved in professional development experiences that focus on lesson design and the various tech tools available to them as they continue teaching remotely in the weeks to come.

We have tried to anticipate the questions that you may have at this point and included them along with answers below. While I am sure there will be more questions going forward, I encourage you to contact your child’s teacher (if course/content specific) or counselor for other needs. As we are all navigating new territory, both in terms of school and the world in general, please be patient. I am quite sure that students, parents, teachers, and administrators alike have a newfound appreciation of our more typical school experience and are eager to return to the classroom. In the meantime, we accept the challenges associated with this new form of schooling and commit ourselves to finding our way.

On another note, I want to share what might be a valuable resource with all of you. The Wissahickon Valley Public Library is a wonderful way to get books into your child’s hands. This is not so easy at the moment. However, there is another way. At the end of the Q and A section, I have included information as to how you can access E-books during this shelter in place environment. Additionally, I encourage you to visit their website - <https://wvpl.org/> - for other resources that are easily accessed digitally.

In the meantime, make sure that your family stays healthy and remains safe.

Regards,



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How will I receive the *At Home Learning Plan*?

- ◆ Parents of elementary (K-5) students will receive an e-mail from your child’s teacher containing a digital link. Click on the link, and it will take you to the grade level plans for your school. Click on your child’s grade level. Reading, ESL, and Special Education specialists will send additional information for their students. Elementary teachers will reach out to families on Monday or Tuesday to make sure that the AHL Plans have been received and also to see if the parent has any questions.
- ◆ Parents of secondary (6-12) students should check their Schoology account. Both students and parents will find all *At Home Learning Plans* at the specific course.

What can I expect to see in the *At Home Learning Plan*?

- ◆ You will receive two weeks of work on Monday, 3/30. The *At Home Learning Plan* Week 1 should be completed during the week of 3/30, and Week 2 should be completed during the week of 4/6. We realize that the week of 4/6 is officially Spring Break for both students and teachers. Students are welcome to work on the Week 2 assignments once Week 1 assignments have been completed.
- ◆ The work has been designed asynchronously (not a live interaction with the teacher) so that students can complete the work flexibly during the day. Students can do some in the morning, some in the afternoon, and some in the evening. Given the current circumstances, we wanted to be sure that families had as much flexibility as possible when scheduling their child’s day.

What content or subject matter will be in the *At Home Learning Plan*?

- ◆ Elementary AHLP...
 - ✓ Assignments for Core Classes: Mathematics, Reading, Writing
 - ✓ Optional Activities for Science or Social Studies
 - ✓ Choice Activities for Encore Classes: Art, Counseling, Health and Physical Education, Library, Music, S.T.E.M., Instrumental Music Lessons
- ◆ Secondary AHLP...
 - ✓ Assignments for Core Classes: ELA, Math, Science, Social Studies, and World Language
 - ✓ Choice Activities for Elective Classes: Art, Business & Technology, Family Consumer Sciences, Health and PE, and Music

How might a student’s day look while completing the assignments at home?

- ◆ The elementary and secondary assignments included in Week 1 and Week 2 can be completed at times convenient to the student and family. At this point, assignments do not need to be completed at a specific time of the day. Again, this allows for flexibility in the day. If two children are sharing one laptop, set up a schedule so that each child has a set time to work. It is not our expectation that students will sit down at 8:00 AM and work straight through.



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How much time should it take a student to complete the planned work?

- ◆ Work has been planned so that students are working for about 3-4 hours a day. This includes learning activities from the Supplemental List included in the *At Home Learning Plan*. Again, students can work on some of this early in the day, some in the afternoon, and even some in the evening. We understand that parents/guardians are likely also working from home, and so if your child needs some support, you might have the child complete that task when you are available to assist.

Will the work assigned for these two weeks in the *At Home Learning Plans* be graded?

- ◆ The work planned for these two weeks will not be graded. As we move forward on April 13, practices will be just like when school is in session. Some assignments will be designed for practice while others will be graded with feedback for the student.

What do I do with these assignments when completed?

- ◆ Elementary: We will not be collecting these assignments during the weeks of 3/30 and 4/6. Instead, students should keep their work at home. Some of the assignments may be discussed in class upon our return to school. Of course, if the student has questions about any of the assignments or is looking for guidance with the work, e-mail the teacher.
- ◆ Secondary: Assignments may be requested to be submitted or resubmitted in Schoology. The teachers will provide direction to students. Again, if there is a question, please e-mail the teacher.

How can I communicate with teacher if I have a question about an assignment?

- ◆ Teachers are available to discuss and support students with their work. If there is a need to better understand an assignment or how best to help your child with an assignment, you are encouraged to e-mail your child's teacher. If necessary, the teacher will plan for mutually convenient time to have a phone conversation with the parent or with the parent and student if additional support is necessary. They are eager to do so. Teachers will be available by e-mail the week of 3/30 during the school's normal work hours.
 - ✓ Blue Bell Elementary School 7:55-3:25
 - ✓ Lower Gwynedd Elementary School 7:50-3:20
 - ✓ Shady Grove Elementary School 7:50-3:20
 - ✓ Stony Creek Elementary School 7:55-3:25
 - ✓ Wissahickon Middle School 7:25-2:55
 - ✓ Wissahickon High School 7:30-3:00



Will the teachers be using live video tools with students/parents?

- ♦ The primary means of communication at this time will be in the form of e-mail and phone conversations. As we continue remote teaching and learning on April 13 (again, assuming the closure continues), we will be using pre-recorded sessions and slide shows for some of our instruction. Live video instructional tools will not be used at this time.

What if the middle school or high school student had an assignment that was assigned prior to the March 13TH school closure?

- ♦ Our secondary teachers extended the due dates for such assignments, and students are expected to turn in that work no later than this Friday, April 3. These assignments are part of the third marking period and will need to be uploaded to Schoology. Students are encouraged to use Schoology to communicate with their teachers if they have any questions regarding assignments given prior to March 13TH.

Access to Your Public Library – Wissahickon Valley Public Library

Would you like to access some E-Books but don't have a library card? If yes, here's how...

1. Overdrive e-books and e-audiobooks - If you do not have a library card, you can get an Instant Digital Card through OverDrive using your cell phone number. This digital card will give you immediate access to eBooks and audiobooks. Please note that this card number is just for OverDrive and will not work for other databases.
2. To sign up, go to <https://montcolibs.overdrive.com/> or the OverDrive app, and choose “Sign in,” then follow the directions to get a free card instantly.
3. Note: RBDigital - Patrons without library cards can now register for access by using 17942020 as their access code when they register. You will see a form that looks like the one below.

LOGIN INFORMATION	YOUR INFORMATION
USERNAME*	FIRST NAME*
PASSWORD*	LAST NAME*
CONFIRM PASSWORD*	EMAIL*
	CONFIRM EMAIL*
	POSTAL CODE*

I accept the [Terms of Service](#) and [Privacy Policy](#) *

*Required fields

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