



SOCIALIZING DURING SCHOOL CLOSURE

On a recent OLG survey, students overwhelmingly indicated that the #1 most difficult thing about school closure has been not socializing with their friends. Having social time is crucial to our mental health. Ms. Kristin, our school counselor, worked with students to brainstorm ideas for how they can meet this need, despite school closure. Here are the ideas students came up with:

1

SOCIALLY DISTANCED PLAY DATES

Have kids mask up and go on a bike ride, play at a park, or go on a walk with a friend. Getting exercise, sunshine, and time with friends can really give kids' moods a boost!

2

STUDY GROUPS ON WEBCAMS

Older students can meet up to collaborate on homework, and school projects to combine socializing with academics!

3

FUN TIME ON ZOOM

A group of friends can meet up to talk and/or play over Zoom, which is free for anyone to use. Some kids are using Kids Facebook Messenger or FaceTime, too. Play Legos together or other games, tell jokes or stories, or make art! The possibilities are endless!

4

TEXTING OR EMAILING FRIENDS

Older students can text or email friends outside of class time, using personal phones and accounts. Staying in contact can help ease our feelings of loneliness.

5

VIDEO GAMING AND CHATTING

Even though students are on screens a lot, many of them still want to do gaming in their free time. Why not combine gaming with socializing by encouraging kids to use apps like Facetime, Discord or by using built-in chatting features to connect with friends?

6

OUTSIDE HOMEWORK TIME

Get together with a friend to work on your homework outside. Use a picnic table at a park or a table in your backyard, while masked and socially distanced. It's ok to mix in some social time while getting homework done!

HAVE AN IDEA TO SHARE?

Join the OLG parent group on Facebook and post it on our wall!