

Remote Learning Program Week#1

We wish to emphasize the importance of maintaining the children's daily rhythm during the closure. A daily routine is critical for the children's most effective Remote Learning experiences to occur.

There will be three phases to implement our Remote Learning Program.

Phase One – Week #1

So that we can partner with you during the next two weeks as we get up to speed, please let us know if you DO NOT have access to the following equipment or supplies at home:

Early Childhood – Grade 4

- Crayons and colored pencils (any kind)
- Beeswax
- Scrap fabrics or yarn; other craft materials
- Paper
- Main Lesson books
- Internet access
- A device through which your child could listen to a digital audio recording
- A device on which you (parent) could watch a video sent to you by a teacher
- Parent access to a printer either at home or at work
- Please let us know if there is something we forgot!

Grade 5 –Grade 8

- Grade appropriate writing materials (pencils, fountain pen, gel pen, etc.)
- Drawing supplies (colored pencils, etc.),
- Main Lesson books
- Drawing Paper
- Internet access
- Enough devices (computer, smart phone, or tablet) so that all your children could be using devices at the same time
- Student access to a printer
- Please let us know if there is something we forgot!

If you do not have these supplies, or if you do not have access to the Internet or any devices, please let your Early Childhood or Class teacher know.

Teacher Contact and Point People for Parents

- Primary point of contact for parents will be their Class teacher for block/weekly/daily lessons plans via email and phone for starters this week.
- Parents may log onto their Parent Portal and go Employees/Directory (Other) for email and phone numbers for all Teachers if they need to talk directly and to send in completed academic assignments.
- Parents are strongly urged not to call any teacher over the weekend unless it is an emergency.
- Parents needing support and accommodations will need to work directly with their Class teachers.

Expectations and Recommendations

- For those who can implement Remote Learning, we ask that parents/tutors/nannies/etc. do their best to follow the children's normal school schedule from Monday to Friday.
- Grades teachers may modify the school day schedule dependent on the Class and individual student needs.
- Essentially, in the Grades this means Main Lesson for 2 hours in the morning, and Special Subjects and Skills work thereafter with appropriate breaks for snacks, lunch, and free play for the rest of the virtual school day.
- **Grade 6-8:** 8am - 3:30pm
- **Grades 3-5:** 8:30am - 3:00pm
- **Grades 1-2:** 8:30am - 2:30 pm

Accommodations

- Parents who are unable to manage a Remote Learning recommended school schedule will work directly with the Class teacher on ways to support the child and family.

Week #1 Feedback

- Teachers will meet on Thursday March 19, 2020 to review how things are going for each Class. This will include feedback from parents.
- We take all feedback to heart and are working diligently to make the best of a difficult situation.

Remote Learning Platform

- This is an important School decision in terms of cost and training, so we will begin with what we know best, email and phone, and build upon that foundation. We ask your patience and support during this historical transition for us!



- The School has begun to explore a suitable Remote Learning Platform for videoconferencing, and sending and receiving digital resources, including lesson plans and homework (e.g., Zoom, Google Classroom, Microsoft Teams, Dropbox, etc.)

Screen Time Monitoring During School Hours

- We ask that screen time for Grades 5-8 should not exceed 2 hours a day total.
- Grades 1-4 should not exceed 1 hour a day total.

Phase Two – Week #2

- Since we are collectively beta testing our tech and how to best integrate it with our bricks and mortar curriculum over the next two weeks, we hope to select the best Remote Learning Platform as soon as possible.
- Then, staff will need additional training as we roll it out. Again, we ask you to be supportive during this transition period.
- The School will send out appropriate communications to notify the community as our Remote Learning Program forms and settles into its new virtual habit life.

Phase Three – Week #3

- We hope to have our Remote Learning Program more fully operating during the school week.
- More to come as the situation clarifies.
- We still don't know the length of the closures and are planning for 6-8 weeks of Remote Learning as necessary.

Week #1 Main Lesson & Skills Activities Grades 1-3

- Grades 1- 3 will **not** use Remote Learning Platforms with the children. Parent Conferences will use them as needed.
- For Main Lesson and Skills lessons, teachers will employ audio books, audio files, and written materials.
- Main Lesson instructions will be sent the day before along with the Skills lessons as warranted.
- Parents needing support and accommodations will need to work directly with their Class teachers.

Week #1 Subject Lessons Activities Grades 1-3

- Subject lessons will use audio books, audio files, and written materials.
- Games and Eurythmy will send suggestions and recommendations for activities.
- Miss Brenna and Sarabeth will also be available to help with suggestions for rainy day and outdoor classroom activities, cooking, gardening etc.

- Parents needing support and accommodations will need to work directly with their Class teachers.

Week #1 Middle School Main Lesson Activities Grades 4-8

- Middle School lessons will use age appropriate visual and audio resources. Children in Grades 4-7 will **not** have their own email accounts or phone numbers. All communications initially will be made via parents by email or phone.
- Grade 8 is in the third year of Cyber Civics instruction and will be allowed to directly email their teachers as needed. This prepares them for high school.
- The Middle School is exploring the Zoom, Google Classroom, and Microsoft Teams platforms for Main Lesson learning.
- **Middle school children will only be online as needed and not more than 2 hours during the school day.**
- Parents needing support and accommodations will need to work directly with their Class teachers.

Week #1 Middle School Main Subject Lessons Activities Grades 4-8

- Subject teachers will send an overview of the week's lessons by Monday night, including due dates for projects and assignments, to Class teachers.
- Class teachers will integrate all block, weekly, and daily lesson to send to parents by Tuesday morning.
- This will be augmented during the school week with daily updates as necessary depending on each Class.
- All feedback from parents should be sent directly to respective Class and Subject teachers via email by 4pm. daily.
- Parents needing support and accommodations will need to work directly with their Class teachers.

Creating Your Remote Learning Classroom (Indoor/Outdoor)

- It is important that a quiet uninterrupted space be prepared for your child to be able to do their work.
- Whenever possible the children should do physical movement, take walks, garden, helping with cooking etc.
- There will be lots of opportunities for your child to reconnect to themselves, siblings (if applicable) and you.
- Your child needs their own "homework/study" center in their room or some other quiet place in the house.
- It sends a strong message that you value their work if you provide a quiet place where supplies (pens, pencils, eraser, paper, good light) are at hand and interruptions are held to a minimum.



Westside Waldorf School

- We request that no music, television, cell phone, computer, etc. be played during this time, it is quiet concentration time.

Lastly, this is an exciting time to participate in the creation of Remote Learning in Waldorf K-8 Grades Schools nation- and worldwide! History is unfolding, and we invite you to participate and help us work together to ensure that our children receive the best educational experiences during this stressful time.

In Love & Service,

Your Westside Waldorf Teachers, Admin & Staff