

# **FAQs Regarding School Closures and Home Learning**

**1. How long will our schools be closed?**

- Through June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**2. What are the plans for 8th promotion?**

- Plans are being developed for 8<sup>th</sup> grade promotion.

**3. How long will the school be providing free “grab and go” breakfast and lunch meal service while schools are closed?**

- Through June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**4. Where can I go for information?**

- El Sol Newsletter- if you don't receive it follow the steps:
  - Text the word **ELSOLACADEMY** to **22828**
  - Reply to the text message with your email address
- The school's website – [www.elsolacademy.org](http://www.elsolacademy.org)
- Your child's teacher
- By calling the office 714-543-0023
- Email, text or call Sara Flores – 714-975-0544, [sflores@elsolacademy.org](mailto:sflores@elsolacademy.org)

**5. What if I am feeling overwhelmed?**

- We know that this is a period of significant change. If you are feeling overwhelmed, please reach out to us we can provide support and guidance and if necessary appropriate referrals.

**6. Will state exams continue as planned?**

- No. All California assessments for grades 3<sup>rd</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> have now been suspended for the rest of the school year, including the state English Language Arts test, the state Mathematics test, and the state Science test.

**7. Are schools still holding parent-teacher conferences?**

- At this point, we have put parent-teacher conferences on hold. Families will get opportunities to speak with teachers about the child's progress while our schools are physically closed. Teachers will reach out to families by phone, email, or the online platform that each teacher is using.

# FAQs Regarding Distance Learning

## 1. What are the expectations for students during distance learning?

During the first couple of weeks, teachers will build routines, check in on students' socio-emotional needs, build community, and explicitly teach the expectations of distance learning.

While this will look different based on students' grades and needs, their familiarity with learning technology, and teachers' own preferences, during these initial weeks, our main objectives are for students to:

- Reconnect with their teachers and each other and learn how they will continue to engage with each other as classmates and friends.
- Explain why we are not returning to school buildings and how to help our communities stay healthy during this pandemic.
- Create a schedule for themselves (with their families, as appropriate) that outlines when schoolwork will be completed, including when the student will have access to digital devices, and when the student will take breaks.
- Log in to online independent online learning programs and explain the expectations for engaging with these programs or pick up hard copies of work (school office) and explain the process for returning it for feedback and grades.
- Complete 1-4+ sessions of online independent learning **OR** assignments in their learning packet depending on the grade level.

## 2. I am a parent who is not familiar with the distance learning model. Can you give me more information about how this will work?

- Teachers in grades TK-8 will use Zoom video conferencing to conduct whole group and small group sessions with students. Instructional aides will provide designated support as assigned using similar tools. Your child's teacher will communicate with you and provide you with access codes and links to Zoom conference meetings. Younger children will need the support of a supervising adult who will be accessible throughout the session. Sessions will look different at each grade level, based on developmental appropriateness and student/family needs
- Middle school students will also use Microsoft Teams to video-conference with teachers and track online assignments. All middle school students have an El Sol email account that is directly linked to Microsoft Teams. If your child cannot remember his/her username and password, please contact Ivet Gonzalez at [igonzaalez@elsolacademy.org](mailto:igonzaalez@elsolacademy.org). **Include your child's full name and student ID number in the email.**

## 3. How do I support my child's learning if we have multiple children at home?

- Creating schedules and having quiet places for study will help when multiple children are attempting their school work each day. Constant communication with your child's teacher's is very important to receive support and guidance.

**4. How many hours are students expected to work each day?**

- TK and Kinder – 1.5 hours daily
- 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> grade – 2 hours daily
- 3<sup>rd</sup> -5<sup>th</sup> grade – 3 hours daily
- 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade – 4 hours daily

**5. How will I know that my child is staying on track with their learning?**

- Stay in touch with your child's teachers. Reach out and communicate any challenges and reinforce practices that are working to maintain two-way communication. Check emails and communication platforms frequently.

**6. What learning services will be available during distance learning?**

- Online Tutoring, spiral review and enrichment
- Technology/Access support
- Mental Health Services

**7. How are students receiving feedback or grades?**

- The California Department of Education (CDE) has asked schools to determine the specific terms around how assignments will be graded. However, no specific guidance has been issued around grade reporting.
- Teachers will provide feedback on assignments via their communication platforms, which can only serve to benefit the students. We cannot assign grades and students will NOT be penalized.
- Our educational program will continue and the most important thing you can do is support your child by motivating him/her to participate in the weekly learning activities.

**8. How will the school take attendance?**

- Elementary teachers will work with their homeroom classes to host weekly Zoom sessions. Teachers will be tracking attendance via zoom and any other previously established platforms, as a way to continue supporting and reaching all students.
- Middle school teachers will track attendance using the Microsoft Teams platform. **If you are experiencing difficulties or have scheduling conflicts, please communicate with your child's teacher.**

**9. What if I have to work during the day?**

- We understand that this is a stressful time. Our intent is not to increase angst but rather to provide you with some flexible options that you can tailor to fit the needs of your family circumstances. You will receive communication that outlines weekly expectations, as well as some suggestions for what a daily schedule might look like.

- Please work with your child to create a simple and flexible schedule that works for your family, and that allows your child to complete their schoolwork at his/her pace. You should also share the schedule with whomever is caring for your child while you are at work. We are here to support you – please reach out if you need help. Build a support system within your classroom community.

#### **10. Will my child continue to receive special education services?**

- Yes. Students with Individualized Educational Plans (IEPs) will continue to have access to instructional content during this time of distance learning. In the coming days, you should expect to hear directly from special education teachers to support the students with academic support.
- We are working directly with these providers to determine the best way to ensure all students receive the appropriate related services during this time and to develop a schedule that does not conflict with your student's daily remote learning schedule.

#### **11. What if my child requires an evaluation?**

If an evaluation of a student with a disability requires a face-to-face assessment or observation, the evaluation would need to be delayed until school reopens. El Sol Academy will continue to follow the guidelines from the U.S. Department of Education and California Department of Education as they release new information. If you have questions about your child's IEP, please contact Sara Flores- 714-975-0544 or [sflores@elsolacademy.org](mailto:sflores@elsolacademy.org)

### **FAQs Regarding Technology Issues**

#### **Who do I contact for a technology-related problem or issue?**

\* Tristan Gude 714-767-6078 or email [tgude@elsolacademy.org](mailto:tgude@elsolacademy.org)

#### **What can I do if I do not have access to a computing device at home?**

\* Please contact Tristan Gude 714-767-6078 or email [tgude@elsolacademy.org](mailto:tgude@elsolacademy.org)

#### **How do I get help using Zoom?**

\* Contact your child's teacher.

#### **What if I don't have access to wireless internet?**

\* Please contact Tristan Gude 714-767-6078 or email [tgude@elsolacademy.org](mailto:tgude@elsolacademy.org)

Please continue to check our FAQs via our Newsletter or the website.  
We will continue to update this document in the coming days and weeks.