

Zion Lutheran School

Distance Learning Committee Report

Two Weeks at Home

2020-2021



[Jesus said] "I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

--John 16:33

08/07/2020

Subject to change without notice.

Preface

These are certainly trying times. The world has changed and is changing, and we know that through this storm, God remains unchanged and unchanging. He is our Rock and our Foundation, our Refuge in times of trouble. Zion of the Old Testament, our namesake, was God's holy hill upon which His people found safety, strength, comfort and peace. We hope to provide these for you--that our school may be a source of safety, strength, comfort and peace.

The following document is the result of Zion Lutheran School's Distance Learning Committee meetings. In our meetings we discussed best practices for distance learning, while remaining committed to our mission of providing quality Christian education. Our goal was to write a plan that is comprehensive and addresses a wide variety of issues, yet remains responsive and adaptable for our school community. We reflected on feedback from our school community this spring when our school initially engaged in distance learning.

This feedback was as diverse as our community: some said we provided too much work, some said there was not enough, some said we had too many online meetings, and some said not enough, some were overwhelmed with schoolwork and others desired more. The following document presents a plan that is true to our educational objectives, provides a reasonable amount of work, and focuses on teacher engagement with students and families. It also provides some latitude for all involved--a framework is in place for every class, and can be adjusted as needed.

We believe this is the finest online experience your children can have because of our solid curriculum and our dedication. Our teachers and staff are here to walk with you and your family, to aid in being the calm and the strength in the storm of this world for our children. We hope you see the value in these enduring relationships.

In Christ,

Zion Lutheran School Distance Learning Committee

Peter Martin, Principal and Parent

Melissa Hackmann, Pre-through-2nd Grade Department Head, Teacher, and Parent

Jennifer Hayter, Teacher and Parent

Transition to Distance Learning Plan

To be enacted when a class is sent home for two weeks

- Teacher has a pre-made calendar for the month which has already been distributed to students and posted online. Monthly calendars identify academic objectives (Preschool-2) and finite assignments (3-8).
- Math and Language Arts (Reading, Writing, Grammar and/or Literature) are the priorities in all classes.
- Science, Social Studies and Religion remain required classes.
- By 9:00 - Teacher emails all students the plan for the day.
- Preschool classes have the same number of online meetings per week as they would have on-campus school days: Just-for-Threes will have two per week, Preschool will have three, and Kinder-Ready will have five.
- Kindergarten through 6th Grade Classes have one daily online morning meeting and lesson, including an opening prayer and/or devotion.
- Middle school classes have two to three daily online meetings, including at least one with Mr. Repp and one with Ms. Stahl.
- Teacher takes attendance at each online meeting
- Teacher calls and/or emails every student who didn't attend and discusses expectations for the day.
- Each morning, Teacher has online office hours for any students who want extra help or have questions.
- 12:00 - (1:00 for middle school) Teacher is finished with direct instruction for the day, but may respond to emails, phone calls and texts throughout the afternoon.
- Parents expectations: Ensure that work is being completed every day to the best of child's ability; ensuring that students attend online meetings
- Teachers are encouraged to work from school, if allowed, in order to use school Internet, and other technology and on-campus support.
- Google Classroom and its components including Google Meet is the preferred platform for every grade, and Zoom and other programs may be used as needed.
- Google Classroom synchronizes with Sycamore Education to expedite grading, posting of assignments and communication with parents and students.
- Teachers scan worksheets in advance for digital posting and/or emailing in addition to using printed copies.
- Links to all online curricula are easily accessible on our website.
- Students in grades 6-8 receive school-issued Chromebooks; students in lower grades may check out Chromebooks based on need.
- Teachers email classes before 9:00am each morning with the day's agenda.

- Required daily online meeting for the entire class beginning with prayer and/or devotion.
- Teachers call or email every family whose student didn't attend and discuss expectations for the day.
- Online meetings are recorded for viewing at a later time.
- Each day, teachers have online office hours for any students who want extra help.
- At 12:00 (1:00 for middle school and preschool) teachers are finished with instruction for the day, but will be available to contact. Each teacher may designate their preferred method of contact (i.e. email, phone, text).
- Student Expectations: Be present for class meetings, get extra help during office hours; may email teachers for additional help.
- Parents Expectations: Ensure that student work is being completed every day to the best of child's ability; ensure that students attend online meetings.

Class	Daily Online Meeting Time	Teacher Office Hours
Chapel	9:00 to 9:30 Wednesdays (supersedes schedules below)	
Just-for-Threes and Preschool	9:00 to 10:00	10:00 to 11:00
Kinder-Ready	12:00 to 1:00	10:00 to 11:00
Kindergarten	9:00 to 9:30	10:00 to 11:00
1st Grade	9:00 to 9:40	10:00 to 11:00
2nd Grade	10:00 to 10:40	11:00 to 12:00
3rd Grade	10:00 to 10:40	11:00 to 12:00
4th Grade	10:00 to 10:40	11:00 to 12:00
5th Grade	11:00 to 11:40	9:00 to 10:00
6th Grade	11:00 to 11:40	9:00 to 10:00
7th Grade	10:00 to 10:40 and 12:00 to 12:40	11:00 to 12:00
8th Grade	10:00 to 10:40 and 12:00 to 12:40	11:00 to 12:00
ZHSA	9:00 to 9:40	11:00 to 12:00