



March 13, 2020

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## Distance Learning. Here's the Plan

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Dear Students and Families,

At OVS, we teach students to be problem solvers. The COVID-19 virus has created a challenge for how we teach and how our students learn. With collaboration and ingenuity from our faculty, we have created a plan for online learning for the next three weeks.

Here is how it is going to work:

On Monday, March 16, there will be no classes. Teachers will spend the day finalizing their lesson plans, setting up their technology and getting ready to launch online classes. Your job, as students and parents, is to set up a home classroom.

What this will look like will vary based on each student's grade level and individual needs. You will need a computer or a tablet with a functioning camera and reliable internet access. Your home classroom should be a comfortable place, ideally a desk or table with a clock or timer, with no distractions, no television, and room to move around during breaks. (We invite students to share pictures of their home classrooms in the coming days.)

On Tuesday, March 17, the first day of online classes will begin. Schedules will be provided in advance by Mrs. Colborn for the high school, Mrs. Slosberg for middle school, and by individual elementary and primary teachers.

Students in grades 6-12 will attend online morning classes via Google Meet and other interactive tools. They will, with some exceptions, access their assignments in Moodle or by email. Families should expect students to be working interactively with their teachers online each morning. They will need to spend additional time in the afternoons studying and completing assignments.

For grades PK-5, there will be a combination of online assignments, worksheets, and other supplementary materials - all of which will be communicated by classroom teachers.

In the beginning, we recognize that this new format will be challenging for students and parents. Here's what Assistant Head of School Mike Mahon told the middle school students today, and it's applicable for all of us:

- Try hard, and try more than once.
- Read directions carefully. If you get confused, ask questions. Teachers will maintain

office hours and be available to help.

- Be on time to class - even if class is temporarily in your own home.
- Work through challenges and be patient.

As for other events and school activities, field trips, outdoor trips, and sports contests on the March calendar will be postponed. We will not be offering day bus service while distance learning takes place.

We recognize that students enjoy coming to school and connecting with their friends. We are a school that encourages hands-on learning and personal connections. But we also teach perseverance, and we want students to learn to adapt to change.

Please reach out to us early and often, and we will get through this together.

Best wishes,

Gary Gartrell,  
Lower Campus Head of School



Craig Floyd,  
Upper Campus Head of School

