

Mrs. Piper L. Bognar, Superintendent

April 15, 2020

Dear Van Dyke Families and Community:

Things have been moving quickly as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to affect our families, our economy, and our schools as we know them. I'm sure everyone is looking forward to the day when we'll be able to see each other in person, go back to our "normal" daily life, and give our family members a hug before we head out for the day. For now, we are adjusting within the district and working to provide you and your students with the services you need.

Per the Governor's Executive Order issued on April 2, 2020, each district must prepare a **Continuity of Learning Plan**. Van Dyke's Continuity of Learning Plan has been created with two important things in mind:

1. We are in line with the Governor's Executive Order and all legal parameters;
2. We will have the opportunity to amend the plan throughout the spring to better address our district's needs where necessary.

The plan must address specific items including those regarding at-home learning and its delivery for public school students; continuation of food distribution; the ways in which we will be able to support student mental health; how our budget will be affected through the end of the 2019-2020 school year; and how all aspects of the plan will be monitored. We have had committees working on this plan, and we are continuing to refine it so that it will be cohesive and can address all students. Over the next week, you'll hear more from your child's teachers regarding the specific plans for delivery of instruction.

Some pertinent items thus far include the following. A comprehensive plan will be posted to the district website early next week, however these items are of particular interest:

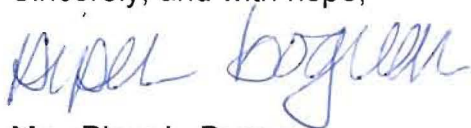
- Food distribution will continue for families in the community. The schedule is subject to change according to need.
- Workbooks are being purchased for all students in the district. They will arrive later this week and early next week. Instructional staff will then have the opportunity to customize a calendar for lessons and provide supplemental resources where appropriate. Booklets will be distributed at food distributions sites, directly from schools, and can be sent differently according to family needs. Your child's teacher(s) will communicate directly with you regarding assignments.
  - **We will be sending a robocall when the student books are ready to be picked up.** If we do not have your correct contact information, please call the Superintendent's office at (586) 758-8333.
- Technology will be used as an additional resource for students who wish to participate in this way rather than via the workbook. Google classroom will be the main avenue; however, some teachers may use different platforms such as Zoom, Edmodo, Class Dojo, and Remind 101. If

you do NOT want your child to participate in communicating via any live methods, you must contact your principal directly.

- There will be additional resources for all students posted on the district website and Facebook page periodically. This is in an effort to assist parents and families who are looking for ways to keep children engaged while they are at home.
- If your child receives special services, your provider will reach out to you regarding a contingency of learning plan.
- Remember that it is not necessary for children to work at home for the amount of time that they usually work at school. At the end of this letter, you will see a chart with the recommended times of engagement for different ages. You may use this as a guide and as a starting point when guiding your children to do their work at home.
- For grading, move-up of grades, and seniors/graduation: The overall district procedure will be that **students will not be penalized due to the pandemic**.
  - Grading: Students will have the opportunity to improve grades through the at-home learning opportunities as specified by their teacher(s). In place of a grade, students will receive credit (CR) or no credit (NC). All students should be provided additional opportunities and support to improve their grades through make-up, exemption of non-essential grades, or completion of additional learning activities.
  - Move up of grades: If students were on track to move up, they will move up. It is expected that assignments will be completed as assigned by the teacher(s) during the fourth quarter of this school year. If there was ongoing discussion about retention in a particular grade or failing courses, this discussion will continue with the teacher and school.
  - Seniors: You will be asked to complete a Senior Project. Details of this project will be posted on Mr. McGavin's English 12 Google Classroom page. Any senior who was not passing a class which is required for graduation should continue this same plan in order to gain credit for their class. However, all learning activities for seniors should be completed no later than May 22, 2020 and their final attainment of credit for all courses should be posted in PowerSchool no later than 3:00 p.m. Tuesday, May 26, 2020. *\*For any senior who is not earning credit for required classes needed for graduation upon that date, the principal and counselor will work individually with those students to determine a course of action for credit recovery.* \*There have been NO final decisions made regarding graduation or prom. You will be notified soon regarding these and other senior items.
  - Requirements may differ for Success Academy students. Please remain in contact with your Director and instructor.

Let's continue to practice flexibility and patience with each other as we move forward this spring. There are still some unanswered questions, and that is to be expected. It's the goal of everyone in the district to customize our plan to meet our students' needs and to be considerate of all families' different needs during this time. A little kindness will go a long way, whether it's with your family members in close quarters, your grocery and healthcare workers, your child's teachers, or yourself at your most stressed. It sounds cliché at this point, but we are in this together and we will get through it. Take good care of yourselves.

Sincerely, and with hope,



Mrs. Piper L. Bognar  
Superintendent

## **SAMPLE Minimum and Maximum Times of Engagement for Remote Learning Activities**

*Please note that students do not need to be working either in their packets or online all day. It is healthy for them to do a mix of activities, both schoolwork and individual or family-based. This is a suggested minimum and maximum; please gauge what works for each of your children.*

<b>Grade Level</b>	<b>Minimum</b>	<b>Maximum</b>	<b>Recommended Length of Sustained Attention to One Task</b>
<b>PreK</b>	<b>20 minutes/day</b>	<b>60 minutes/day</b>	<b>3-5 minutes</b>
<b>K</b>	<b>30 minutes/day</b>	<b>90 minutes/day</b>	<b>3-5 minutes</b>
<b>1-2</b>	<b>45 minutes/day</b>	<b>90 minutes/day</b>	<b>5-10 minutes</b>
<b>3-5</b>	<b>60 minutes/day</b>	<b>120 minutes/day</b>	<b>10-15 minutes</b>
<b>6-8</b>	<b>Class: 15 minutes/day Total: 90 minutes/day</b>	<b>Class: 30 minutes/day Total: 180 minutes/day</b>	<b>1 subject area or class</b>
<b>9-12</b>	<b>Class: 20 minutes/day Total: 120 minutes/day</b>	<b>Class: 45 minutes/day Total: 270 minutes/day</b>	<b>1 subject area or class</b>

Source: Illinois State Board, (2020) *Remote Learning Recommendations during COVID-19 Emergency*