

VIRTUAL LEARNING PLAN

Gwynedd Mercy Academy High School



A Virtual Learning Plan has been developed for implementation by GMAHS if an extended school closure is required in response to the concerns and complexities surrounding COVID-19. Any decision to close school will be made only when we have consulted with state or local health officials, neighboring school districts, or other relevant informants. This Virtual Learning Plan, created and shared for the purpose of practical preparedness, has been designed around the following understandings:

- Faculty and students are committed to working in partnership from a remote location to ensure continuity of instruction and learning during the extended school closure.
- Microsoft Teams will be the digital platform through which the faculty and students communicate for class sessions. An electronic device with internet access will be required for all faculty and students.
- Students are expected to attend each of their classes during their regularly scheduled class times, according to a Bell 5, B/C day schedule (details below).
- Faculty will be available via email (Mon – Fri, 8:00am – 3:00pm) and through Microsoft Teams during their regularly scheduled class periods. The faculty has been asked to respond to after-school student/parent inquiries within 24 hours (Mon – Fri).
- Faculty will continue to post assignments and resources to Rediker, as usual.

DAILY SCHEDULE

- Faculty and students will virtually attend class together as if school were still in session. Students have been reminded to bring all of their learning materials home with them so that they are prepared for any potential closure.
- If or when a decision is made to close school, the following schedule for virtual learning will be enacted:
 - Day 1 of School Closure: **Cyber Day *without*** class meetings on Microsoft Teams. Faculty will post assignments for students on Rediker but they ***will not*** virtually attend class together. Faculty will prepare to host their virtual classes on Day 2.
 - Day 2 of School Closure: **B Day** – Students and faculty will log in to Microsoft Teams and engage in live classroom interaction during their regularly scheduled B day class periods. (e.g. If a student has Theology at period A, they will meet from 8:19 – 9:42am as they would on a B day, and then follow the rest of their schedule throughout the day).
 - Day 3 of School Closure: **C Day** - Students and faculty will log in to Microsoft Teams and engage in live classroom interaction during their regularly scheduled C day class periods. (e.g. If a student has Biology at period B, they will meet from 8:19 – 9:42am as they would on a C day, and then follow the rest of their schedule throughout the day).
 - Day 4 of School Closure: **B Day** – Faculty and students will follow this pattern of B and C days for the duration of the school closure.

ATTENDANCE

Faculty will take attendance during each class period and report any student absences to the office staff via email at the end of each day.

VIRTUAL LESSONS

Faculty will provide direct and indirect instruction during their virtual learning sessions.

- **Direct Instruction:** During a portion of the 80-minute period, faculty will deliver direct and engaging instruction to the students as they typically would in the classroom.
- **Indirect Instruction:** Mindful of each student's screen time and attention span throughout the day, faculty will also provide written tasks, projects, and other assignments as a means of engaging the students in independent work and/or collaboration via "chats" or "conversations" in Microsoft Teams. It is important to note, however, that each faculty member will be available for the entire 80 minutes of the class period to respond to students' questions and provide timely feedback.

ASSIGNMENTS AND HOMEWORK

The faculty is conscious of the fact that students will be engaging in all of their 6 or 7 classes and will be receiving assignments and homework in each class. Because classes are 80 minutes in length, the faculty has been asked to assign work that can be completed within the virtual class session (when possible) to avoid students being overloaded with homework.

ASSESSMENTS AND GRADING

Participation in virtual learning requires each faculty member to consider alternative methods to assess student progress and the intended acquisition of skills. Providing students with projects, written assignments, and opportunities for conversation are among the ways that faculty will assess student learning. The faculty has been asked to set clear expectations, to provide rubrics for assignments as warranted, and to assign grades that align with each student's performance.

SUBJECT-SPECIFIC ADJUSTMENTS

Certain subjects are less adaptable to digital platforms. However, faculty members who teach these subjects are prepared to provide learning opportunities in alternate ways.

- The **Physical Education/Health Department** will offer students exercises and videos to complete during their regularly scheduled gym classes.
- The **Art Department** will engage students in artistic media that is more conducive to home use and less reliant upon the materials that are available in the GMAHS art studio.

TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT

Because all faculty and students will be working remotely during the implementation of this Virtual Learning Plan, the Technology Department will be available for support via email from 8:00am – 4:00pm each day. Feel free to contact techsupport@gmahs.org with any questions or concerns, and please include a phone # so that a member of our Technology Dept. can call you if necessary.