



4.4.2020

Dear parents/guardians;

I hope this letter finds everyone healthy and adjusting well as we work to navigate these challenging circumstances and continue to engage our students in learning activities. Teachers and therapists have been collaborating with instructional leaders, school administrators, and parents to develop a virtual distance learning plan so that we can continue implementing student IEPs. I will detail the plan here and will also hold a ZOOM videoconference to discuss this plan and answer any questions you may have. That meeting will be held later this week and an invitation link will be emailed to families.

## **Distance Learning Plan for St. Coletta School Students**

### **Classroom Instructional Activities**

#### **Work Packets**

*Student work packets*- Work packets have been sent home to all families. These packets include lesson plans, activity materials, specific student IEP goal sheets, and additional tips for engaging students in learning during functional daily living activities in the home. Therapists also included information on therapy related activities. Data sheets for a specific IEP goal were included, and if a student IEP includes a behavior plan, a behavior data sheet was also provided. The physical work packets are considered the best way to provide individual IEP implementation. Teachers and therapists will work through teleconferences, video conferencing and other methods to provide guidance on using these materials as they relate to specific student IEP goals.

*Unique Learning System lesson plans*- The Unique Learning System curriculum is a resource guide our teachers use throughout the school year. This online curriculum allows teachers to create lesson plans based on individual student levels. Our teachers will create individual student accounts and email 5 individualized lesson plans each week. You should receive these from your classroom teacher each Monday. The Unique Learning System also allows for collecting data on these lessons once they are completed. This will give teachers the ability to discuss the lessons with you in more depth.

#### **Virtual lessons**

*Video Lessons*- Each week, teachers will upload 5 video lessons to a YouTube channel created for their House. There will be a literacy, math, daily living, and two (2) additional video activities posted. An email will be sent to families/students with a link to the specific lesson. These links are invisible and unsearchable, so you must use the link provided.

*Video Conference sessions*- Teachers will use video conferencing to provide instruction on specific lessons in the work packets as well as to provide with you with suggestions on how to use these lessons and the lessons shared from the Unique Learning System to address your child's IEP goals. Teachers will work with you to schedule sessions as needed.

*Video Demonstrations*- Specials teachers and therapist video demonstrations will be posted on our Facebook page and saved on our public St. Coletta School YouTube channel. Our assistive technology specialist will also be sharing weekly book readings.



## **Additional Resources**

*Additional Work Packets*- Teachers have the ability to create additional lesson plans for you through the Unique Learning Curriculum. They will be able to email them to you. In addition, work materials will be posted on the school's website periodically.

*Educational websites and smartphone apps*- Teachers will include suggestions for a variety of educational games and phone apps that students can access. Web-based resources and applications will also be shared on the school's website.

## **Teacher Support**

### **Teachers**

Teachers will reach out to students/families three (3) times per week via email or video conferencing. This is a time to provide 1:1 instruction and/or consult as previously determined with your child's teacher, or to check in and see what additional supports are needed. In addition, teachers will have "office hours" two (2) hours each day during which time they will be available to provide support via email.

## **Related Services and Behavior Supports**

### **Therapy Services**

Related service providers will develop appropriate distance learning programs for each of their students. These services could occur in the following ways:

- \*Direct teletherapy sessions
- \*Weekly activities provided via phone, email, or video call
- \*Check-ins with families to discuss assigned activities and give recommendations
- \*Sharing of goal-related resources such as prerecorded videos, online books, audio lessons, or educational apps

Therapists will work with you to determine which methods work best for you and your child and to participate in their therapies as close to their IEP as possible.

### **Behavior Supports**

We know that this adjustment to online learning could be very challenging for students, and for families. Our behavior team will be providing tips for parents on how to set up their learning environment and strategies for preventing behaviors that impact a student's ability to engage in learning activities.

For students with behavior goals on their IEP, your child's behavior specialist will contact you to schedule times to consult and for online student sessions.



## **IEP Meetings**

IEP meetings will be held as determined by each jurisdiction. DCPS is currently holding all IEP and eligibility meetings to maintain compliance to IEP timelines. This process may look very different than typical meetings in order to most accurately portray the instruction and learning taking place during the closure. These meetings will be held via phone conference or video conference.

## **Distance Learning Expectations**

We understand this is a challenging time and are committed to supporting you in any way possible to ensure your child continues to engage in their educational program. While this distance learning plan is not able to replicate the exact program provided in person, there are many ways students can continue to learn and make progress in skill areas during this closure.

It is the expectation that all families and students engage in learning activities to the best of their ability. We have reached out to apply for funds in the DC Equity Fund in order to provide Chromebooks for any student that does not currently have a way to access resources available for online learning. In the event this is not available, we could continue to work with students on the work packets sent home.

## **Instructional and Covid-19 Related Resources**

There will be two (2) resource sections on our website. One for Covid-19 related resources such as food distribution center locations, food pantry pick-up schedules, and Covid-19 related health care information and mental health resources.

The instructional resource section will include resources for your child's educational programming. This will include lesson plans and activity materials, web-based instructional activities and educational apps for your phone, therapist tips, and behavior support strategies.

If you need additional supports and/or resources, please feel free to contact me.

Take care and continue social distancing so we can all be back together sooner!

Christie Mandeville

Principal

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