



Nauset Public Schools

78 Eldredge Park Way, Orleans, Massachusetts 02653
Phone: 508-255-8800 • Fax: 508-240-2351 • <http://nausetschools.org>

Thomas M. Conrad
Superintendent of Schools

Date: March 18, 2020
To: Parents/Guardians
From: Superintendent Thomas Conrad
Re: Learning Plans for Students during School Closures

Each school is moving forward with implementing plans for your child to continue learning at home during the school shut-down. Soon, parents will be receiving various "Alternative Learning Plans" from their child's teachers. For elementary students, this information will be distributed to parents/guardians to provide to their children; for middle school and high school students, the information will be provided directly to them by their teachers. I am writing to share with you the "Guiding Principles" and "Learning Guidelines" that we used in creating these plans. Furthermore, we want you to know that teachers will be checking in weekly with you and/or your child to assist, answer questions, and make ongoing adjustments to learning plans. Please take a moment to review the guiding principles and the guidelines below.

Guiding Principles (utilized by school staff members) - Alternative Learning Opportunities

1. Our top priority is the safety and well-being of students, staff, and members of our community;
2. Keep it simple and high quality - let's work together to reduce the chaos;
3. Quality learning experiences are more important than the quantity of time - focus on what is essential and focus on providing students with meaningful learning;
4. Communication is essential - coordinated plans are important for students, families, and staff;
5. Consistency and collaboration are helpful;
6. Utilize technology and other available resources to enhance student learning opportunities and to communicate with students/parents/families. Use apps with which students, staff, and families already have access (Google suite, Lexia, apps currently in use for your class, etc.);
7. We all have a role to play and we need to work together to do what is in the best interest of our families, our students, and the community;
8. Work to create a central location for Alternative Learning Opportunities. For example, posting online learning activities all in Google classroom or elementary learning activities all on a Google site or the school website will make navigation and completion easier for students and families.

Learning Guidelines (utilized by teachers) for creating "Alternative Learning Plans"

1. Focus on what is essential, engaging, and meaningful learning for students;
2. Provide options that include online and off-line learning experiences;
3. For any online learning, use what already exists and what is already part of the daily routine;
4. Provide what is needed in a format that will work for students and families [iPads can be borrowed at the elementary level and iPads will be distributed to achieve a 1:1 ratio for grades 6-12];

(continued)

5. Keep in mind what is feasible with parental support and without parental support. Students should be able to complete the vast majority of items independently or in conjunction with others children in their family;
6. Use this as an opportunity to “think outside the box” and to get creative with ideas that will interest students, engage students, and be something students want to do as a way to continue their learning;
7. Keep in mind students’ unique needs and work to provide access for ALL students. Let’s not overwhelm families or students.

Families and students will receive Alternative Learning Plans by Monday, March 23. Some schools may ask parents/guardians to pick up devices (e.g. iPads) or other learning materials by using the “Grab-and-Go” method in place for meal pick-up each day. This will be communicated to you by the principals at individual buildings. Once the Alternative Learning Plans are in place, teachers will check-in regularly. Teachers will be available Monday through Friday during normal school hours but teachers may not be immediately available if they are working with other students or staff. Every effort will be made by teachers to respond to questions or concerns as soon as possible. Thank you, in advance, for working with your child’s teachers to support your child’s learning. If your family needs any additional support, we are here to help you receive the assistance you need. You may reach out to building principals, assistant principals, guidance counselors, school psychologists, adjustment counselors, school nurses, and our cafeteria staff at any time via email and we will do our best to help all families during these difficult times.