

Hi Peebles Families!

March 22, 2020

We hope that you all are staying healthy and enjoying time together in this very unique situation. First and foremost, we want you to understand that the purpose of Remote Learning is not to add extra stress to an already stressful time. This is new to all of us, so please just do the best you and your family can do. As per the email you should have received from North Allegheny School District, next week we will be starting Remote Learning. We wanted to touch base with you to put us all on the same page and help to ease your minds by trying to answer some questions you may have. This is a new experience for all of us, so we thank you in advance for helping us to navigate this uncharted territory.

Below you will find questions and answers to help us start next week's new learning methods. If you think of any other questions, please don't hesitate to ask. Your questions, concerns, and feelings are probably felt by others too. We will continue these question & answer emails to help everyone involved, and if we don't know the answer, we will try to find out for all of us.

We truly miss your kids, and not seeing them each day has been difficult. We were not given much time to really say goodbye, and we are sure they miss friends and daily routines as well.

Take care, try to make the best of this difficult situation, and please don't hesitate to reach out. Hopefully, the questions and answers below will help you through the first few days of this new process.

What happens on Monday & Tuesday? The first two days will start with our [Flexible Instruction Day \(FID\) menu](#). The North Allegheny FID menus can be found on your child's homeroom teacher's website. That being said, please complete it in the most manageable way for your family.

-They can pick ONE Social Studies or Science activity, their choice—One activity total (either social studies or science) will count for both days.

-There is nothing to turn in to ‘prove’ that the work has been done. You simply sign it, and it is completed. You can cater it to your schedule and your child’s level of work. It will help him/her ease into the concept of learning during the day, and you can make it work for you.

Where does my child find the lessons for each day? The lessons for each day will be found on my website through the Peebles web page. Go to www.northallegeny.org click **NA SCHOOLS**, click **PEEBLES**, click **BUILDING STAFF**, and go to your child’s learning support teacher’s webpage. Some of us will be using Google classroom while others will be emailing parents directly to communicate and provide various links and documents.

When can we start? You can have your child start the FID plans whenever you’d like. They will complete two checklists-- one for Monday and one for Tuesday. Depending on your family’s schedule and expectations, that’s up to you! Some parents like to have an actual 8am-3pm school day, while others have children that will do it independently in their own time frame, and others need to complete tasks in small chunks. There is no “rule” with completion, especially in this current time where we find ourselves with unique circumstances with work, family, and focus.

What materials will they need? Students will use their iPads for many activities. When writing, they can use paper/pencil, Notability, or Word using a laptop/computer. Once we get beyond the first 2 FID days, some

materials they may be asked to use can be found in the folder that was sent home with them the last Friday that school was in session.

Is anything graded? *From the district email:* “As of right now, elementary assignments will not be graded. In the event of a longer closure, the grading procedure and policy will be modified and teachers and parents will be notified.”

Are there going to be online video chats as a class? We have been instructed that for privacy reasons, we are not allowed to video conference with students. We are allowed to record video and audio to send to students, but none of our lessons will be live give-and-take interactions.

What is the best way for students to reach me? The students can always email us! Once we start remote learning, we can develop more clear ways to communicate between one another, especially when they are stuck or have questions.

How much time will this take?

15-30 minutes per subject area for K-2 students

25-45 minutes per subject area for 3-5 students

Even calendar days - Reading assignments

Odd calendar days - Math assignments

What is my next step as a parent? Your next step is to help your child get through Monday and Tuesday. Don't worry too much about it, as it is a general form used by everyone. If you are wanting more for your child, you can also refer to the [District Resources links that have been provided through North Allegheny](#). Please know that with so many unique circumstances in our homes, you are not going to have to spend hours instructing and consuming a great deal of time teaching your child. With everything going on in our world right now, taking care of yourself and your kids emotionally is the top priority.

What is my next step as the teacher? In the next few days there will be a lot of planning and learning on our part. We have had many virtual meetings this week with Dr. Bradley, Dr. Sciullo, Mrs. McKenzie, Mrs. Bjalobok, and other Peebles teachers to ask various questions related to Remote Learning at NA, as well as how to follow students' IEPs at this time. We also have a virtual staff meeting on Monday to address these same questions and help us plan instruction that will be meaningful for your children and help them continue to learn. We have also started to plan for the start of IEP goal instruction. Due to the nature of this situation, some goals and instruction will not be able to be delivered as usual. This is mainly the social and behavior goals that some of our students may have. Once we have our meetings and our plan is ready, one of us will contact you.

How do I get in touch with other teachers related to my child's learning? (GOAL, speech, reading support, orchestra, special area teachers, etc...)? All teachers can be reached by email. They will happily answer questions you may have related to their content. Their information is located on the Peebles website, under Building Staff.

We're all in this together!

Jill Cronin, Scott Oldham, Kristen Bowie, and Keary Pieczynski