

# Best Practices for Teaching and Learning in the Digital World

## ELEMENTARY SCHOOL EDUCATION

Parents and teachers, below you will find important information regarding instructional lessons, tasks, and activities that we expect students to participate in each week in order to enjoy maximum success with our new digital learning community. Lessons will consider the different learning environments that children may be working in at home (e.g., sharing devices, limited access, and the ability to work independently with limited guidance from adults). Teaching time should be concise with additional time for students to practice. Instructional time in any given subject area will typically last around 20-30 minutes. Consideration should be given to the materials that most children will have access to at home.



### Reading & Language Arts Instruction

Students will engage in activities 4 days a week, plus 1 day of enrichment. These will include a mix of lessons beginning with instruction (either a recorded lesson or a live lesson) as well as engaging in reading and writing activities daily.



### Math Instruction

Students will engage in activities 4 days a week, plus 1 day of enrichment. These will include a mix of lessons beginning with instruction (either a recorded lesson or a live lesson). There will be practice of previously learned math content at least twice a week.



### Reading for Enjoyment

Students will read for enjoyment for 20-30 minutes daily. This could include independent reading or being read to, or a combination of both. This could be in paper-books or in digital books, such as those available in myON or researching a "topic of choice."



### Science Instruction

Students will engage in daily investigations, inquiry-based learning, and projects in science that include making observations, questioning, and recording in science "journals." Assignments should keep students curious, encourage "tinkering", and integrate math and science.



### Writing for a Purpose

Students will write 2-3 times each week. This could be a writing in response to reading, writing an opinion piece, writing a letter about what is happening in the world, writing a "How to" article or "All About..." piece, etc.



### Computer-based Instruction

**ELA:** Students will complete 30-45 minutes of computer-based instruction each week in Istation Reading or i-Ready Reading.

**Math:** Students will complete 5 lessons (45-60 minutes) per week in Dreambox or 30-45 minutes in i-Ready Math.

### Visual Arts Instruction



Students will engage in one weekly recorded or live art lesson per grade level, based on district curriculum and state standards, with an embedded learning activity and/or art project using commonly available at-home materials or interactive art learning/making websites (or apps). Art teachers may additionally provide extension activities/projects to all students who would like more creative/enrichment opportunities at home; however, these would not be graded.

### Music Instruction



Students will engage in one weekly recorded or live music lesson per grade level based on district and state standards. Lessons will include one or more musical activities that involve responding (listening, watching, writing), performing (singing, playing, moving) or creating music. Additional music extension projects may be provided for enrichment, but these will not be graded.

### Social/Emotional Learning



#### Physical Education Instruction

Students will engage in physical activities throughout the day. Periodic “brain breaks” can be sprinkled intermittently across the day and outside time is encouraged. Physical education class with the PE teacher should occur weekly in recorded or live lessons.



During this time, it will be critical to support social/emotional health. Students should have opportunities to talk about their feelings in relation to the current situation, ask questions, and express their feelings in appropriate ways such as drawing and writing or talking with family and friends. To the extent possible, try to keep a daily routine as this can be reassuring, promotes physical health, and helps build confidence. School counselors and Student Services Teams are available to families. Please call the school, if needed.

## Key Ideas to Keep in Mind



**Go Slow**



**Quality over Quantity**



**Less is More**



**Student Choice**



**Patience and Understanding**



**Support, Flexibility, and Balance**