

Virtual Learning

A guide to increase effectiveness for each learner



Working together for our students!

A word cloud featuring various positive adjectives and phrases. The most prominent words are 'Respectful' (top center, large purple font), 'Caring' (bottom right, large green font), 'Encouraging' (center, large blue font), 'Supportive' (center, large purple font), and 'Understanding' (left side, large green font). Other visible words include 'Open', 'Positive', 'Communication', 'Appreciative', 'Co-operation', 'Inspiring', 'Responsible', 'Empathy', 'Bonding', 'Collaborative', 'Sharing', 'Helpful', 'Friendly', 'Concerned', 'Loving', 'Commonality', 'Respectful', 'Proud', 'Satisfied', 'Connecting', 'Happy', 'Fun', 'Consistency', 'Honest', 'Reassuring', and 'Respectful'.

Respectful

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Purpose of Today

- To provide some helpful information to parents regarding helping their child to get the most out of the virtual learning experience (*Before live learning, during live learning, afternoon hours*)
- To review expectations for both teachers and students working together in a simultaneously live/virtual classroom environment
- To review vehicles for communication between parents and teachers

BEFORE THE “LIVE” LEARNING EACH DAY

- Students should check the weekly agenda being sent to parents/students. This will have the *live* times that students need to report “on camera.”
- All virtual learners are responsible for weekly “specials” assignments: Check their PE, Art, and Music Google Classrooms for assignments.
 - Grades (*Excellent, Satisfactory, Inconsistent, and Needs Improvement*)
- Prior to logging on, review with your child (or even post) the rules for the day:
 - Be on time.
 - **Mute** your microphone when you sign on, and unmute it when you need to speak
 - Raise your hand and wait your turn for the teacher to call on you.
 - No eating during *live* instruction.
 - Complete assignments as the teacher assigns them.
 - Students should behave the same way they would as if they were in class.
 - **Have headphones (recommended) ready so it helps with the audio** (*If you need them, contact the school*)



IN THE MOMENT LIVE LEARNING

- Part of the the LIVE experience is working within the set expectations of the classroom and routines for each classroom/grade level. This takes time for students to learn and grow familiar with. It also requires independence and each student learning how to do some things on his or her own.
- Students should be seated at a quiet place, free of distractions (dogs barking, television, phone conversations, etc) as much as possible.
- Mics need to be MUTED. Students already have a hard time hearing the teacher while he or she is masked and the extra noise makes it even more difficult.
- Students should stay in front of the camera while live instruction is happening.

LIVE IN THE MOMENT LEARNING

- Parents should be available for support if a child needs it, but not taking the place of the teacher. Tasks are given that are appropriate to the grade level.
- As much as possible, parents should not sit right next to their child throughout the live instruction, otherwise they look to the parent for help, rather than being part of the classroom. Help them to be independent (as they would be in class) by refraining from turning the page for them or finding the right color crayon for them, etc. These are study skills they need to learn, and these tasks are developmentally appropriate for the grade level.
- Students should use a planner to write down assignments and due dates.

LIVE IN THE MOMENT LEARNING

- Sometimes a student may have to wait while the teacher helps another child. This would be the practice in the classroom as well. While sometimes waiting is hard, it also prepares students for real life whole group practices.
 - Learning to wait a turn virtually will help your child to transition easier when they return physically to the classroom. Students can learn to master the skills for independently following directions, etc.
 - It also helps in creating a better bond between the teacher and the student as they are following the rules and expectations set by the teacher.
 - Students in class sometimes have to wait as well while the teacher provides assistance to virtual learners. Managing the two (live and virtual) is a balancing act that we are doing our best in order to give everyone what they need.
- At times, we will all need to practice patience as unpredictable needs can occur in class, such as a student who may need to visit the nurse, has trouble filling out their planner, forgot to order their lunch, or needs additional time with the teacher, etc. and the teacher has to take care of it in the moment as appropriate.

LIVE IN THE MOMENT LEARNING

- If a student is having a difficult time, and the teacher is trying to speak with the student, please step back for a minute to allow the teacher to provide the 1:1 support and foster a student-teacher relationship with the child..
- It can be difficult for anyone to walk the *fine line* between support and *doing* for students who are learning virtual. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to your teacher on how to separate "student" tasks from "supportive" tasks.
- At times letting the student have "wait time" (the time needed to process what they are being asked by the teacher and the time it takes to come up with an answer) can seem like a long time, but it's an integral part of student learning. Giving the answer to students too quickly removes the important processing time they need in order to learn and use age appropriate thinking and problem solving skills.
- Letting students do some tasks for themselves may take them longer, *but it will benefit your child in the end because they will know how to do it by themselves*, it will raise their level of confidence, and they will be prepared for when they do come back into schools to be on level with their peers.

OFF-LINE LEARNING & AFTERNOON HOURS

- If the class goes off-line to participate in a special or to do an independent assignment and then have snack, your child can do the same during that time. This will require some support for younger students. Keep a daily posted schedule to help your child stay on track, and check off each item as it's completed.
- These hours are slated for students who may have a planned lesson with the teacher and/or students who are reaching out for help, extra time that a teacher may schedule with students for additional teaching, clarifying any confusing content for students and/or small group support for new or challenging content.
- These hours are designed for student support only.
- Parents may contact the teacher via email to set up a phone conference or to set up a private parent-to-teacher Google meet to address questions or concerns.

Expectations for the teacher/student

- The teacher will be live teaching virtual and in-person students simultaneously.
- This will take patience on everyone's part as the teacher is moving between her live and virtual student needs. In the Spring, the entire class was virtual which was different.
- Weekly agendas will be sent with times that students must report for LIVE instruction.
- Not all learning has to be LIVE, but LIVE MEETS are where attendance is counted. Students MUST be present for ALL daily LIVE sessions and participating in order to be considered present.
- Independent work, outside of live instruction is also an expectation. Teachers may ask students at times to log off to complete independent work, and then log back on to review or discuss.
- Teachers provide afternoon hours (teacher times will vary) to give extra help, answer questions, have small group lessons, and to be available for any student support.
- Report Cards: Marks 4, 3, 2, and 1 will be given out moving forward.

VEHICLES FOR COMMUNICATION

- Weekly agendas
- Emails
- Check the webpage or Google Classroom
- Parents may set up a private Google Meet session with the teacher
- Call the school or email the teacher a message to call you
- Our new counselor, Ms. Ridge, can be reached at mridge@hazlet.org or check out her website for helpful SEL support
- For specific issues, always contact the teacher first to give him/her a chance to resolve problems.

THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND....

- We are only 2 weeks into the new year with a totally new way of teaching.
- There will be differences in classroom needs, so teacher instructional nuances and specific assignments will be different from class to class.
- Every child's personality is different; some do better with virtual learning than others.
- Sometimes technology will be an issue. We will always do our best to resolve an issue so that student learning can be consistent.
- It's especially important to keep your child to a schedule and foster independence for tasks they can do on their own while virtual learning in order to prepare them when they return into the physical classroom.
- Everyone involved in your child's education wants a positive virtual learning experience! Working the glitches out together is our goal.

*Understanding and grace and patience
are going to be really important qualities
to bring to the table this year.*

Professor Jeffrey Shultz