

Remote Learning FAQs

The Frequently Asked Questions listed below answer questions relating to students who have chosen to learn remotely full time, while in-person learning is occurring on campus.

Community & Culture

1

How will the students attending virtually remain part of the S.I.S. community?

Remote students will attend Morning Meeting. The class may share Writing Workshop pieces and participate in Reading Celebrations and various projects/collaborations with remote and in-person classmates. Technology, including sound enhancement, is being tested to take remote students outside for outdoor learning activities. We also have a microphone and will purchase speakers that teachers can use to amplify their voice to help make their sound louder through the mask. Teachers will "check in" with non-verbal cues to be sure the remote student is engaged.

2

Will you have a "morning meeting" for the relatively small number of on-line students?

We will stream community Morning Meetings for remote students to attend with their class.

3

Since there is a small group of students in each section, will you be doing more multi-age learning so there are more than one or two per class? For example: will remote kids be grouped in multi-age/grade ranges such as -- (K & Primary) (Intermediate & 5th) (MS 6th-8th) -- so there's more than one or two kids in each section?

We plan to have remote students remain with their multi-age level (Primary/Intermediate/5th grade), except for virtual events that include students of various ages.

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How will you build a nurturing classroom culture online?

Remote students will be included in the class group for attendance, and they will have an assigned cubby and a mailbox in the classroom for when they return. They will be included in writing and reading celebrations/content projects, and other activities.

5

What is Responsive Classroom and how is it going to be used for remote learning?

Responsive Classroom is a “student-centered” social/ emotional approach that aids in the creation of a safe, engaging, community of learners. Responsive Classroom focuses on the use by teachers and students of respectful and consistent language and approaches to others that foster clear communication in academic and social situations. Teachers will use Response Classroom principles to support the diverse needs of all students, including those learning remotely.

Rigorous Academics

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What type of live teacher-student interaction will there be?

There will be live lessons, conferences and 1:1 meetings.

7

How are lesson plans and the pacing of instruction being structured to engage students and prevent students from becoming burnt-out from staring at a screen?

There will be a balance of live and independent work (Synchronous and Asynchronous learning). Live lessons will be used to set learning goals/lesson objectives and will be less than 30 minutes in length. Then, students may be sent off to work independently.

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Will a live teacher speaking to an online class, delivering instruction and engaging students, be the norm?

Teachers will deliver live lessons and flipped classroom (pre-recorded) videos for instruction.

9

Will teachers offer weekly office hours where students can pop in on Zoom and ask questions?

Yes, this will be clearly scheduled on the weekly calendar.

10

Will lessons be pre-recorded by teachers (YouTube videos, etc.) so students can watch them and work on the projects on their own time?

Yes, there will be a mix of media to engage learners and allow for students to learn from a variety of sources.

11

Will teachers have split screens showing their face and the content of what they're teaching on the other portion of the screen?

Yes, ideally. Teachers have varied levels of comfort and skill with technology; however, they will receive training in areas of need. Most platforms (Google Meet/Zoom) offer this option.

12

Are you going to start the school year by assessing students to identify how much of the curriculum from the previous grade they have retained?

Yes, reading, writing, spelling, and math assessments will be conducted.

13

Are different rubrics required for students to demonstrate proficiency for distance learning?

The same rubrics will be used as the curriculum will be the same.

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Parent Involvement

14

What level of support will parents be expected to deliver for an online learning model?

This is dependent on the student's age, independence level, and parents' availability.

15

How are learning materials going to be organized to make them user-friendly for parents?

This will be similar to the Spring's remote learning schedule. Teachers will email a user-friendly schedule each week including links that will be used for instructions and assignments.

16

Will lesson plans be provided each week in advance so that parents can better support their children's remote learning at home?

Units for content will be decided in advance by each team, so parents will know which genre and topic is being taught. Weekly lesson plans are teacher dependent. Plans are due to the Head of School at the beginning of the week and you will receive a schedule in Google Classroom for the week on Mondays.

17

How is communication between teachers and parents going to occur to keep families abreast of how students are doing?

Emails, newsletters, schedules, phone calls as needed, social media.