



Frequently Asked Questions

Who will participate in Distance Learning Days?

All K–12 students.

What is a Distance Learning Day?

Distance Learning Days will be used to maintain the momentum of learning, minimizing the interruptions caused by COVID-19 mandated closures. Our primary tool for providing distance learning will be virtual. Providing opportunities for virtual instruction not only supports the school's goal of integrating technology into instruction, but also provides more effective instruction rather than added days to the end of the school year. Students will not report to school due to the health emergency but will engage in learning activities using digital and/or print resources. There is no set "seat time"—students complete work according to family schedule and individual ability.

How will students be informed about assignments during a Distance Learning Day?

Students will be able to access instruction via the various platforms provided (Google Classroom, Edgenuity, Pathblazer, IXL) or complete assignments through work packets that have been sent home by teachers. Google Classroom will be used to post student assignments, facilitate discussions, and submit work. Students will regularly access Google Classroom on typical school days. All teachers will post assignments on Google Classroom and will be available for online communication 8:15 a.m. – 2:15 p.m.

Are mental health resources available?

All mental health/support staff are available via email from 8:15 a.m. to 2:15 p.m., Monday through Friday, to offer support or referrals. We will do our best to get back to you as soon as possible. However, in the event of a mental health emergency or a safety concern with your child, please contact 911 or access the resources below for assistance. Do not contact the school support staff in the event of an emergency situation, as responses may not be timely enough. Community resources include:

- Community Care Alliance – Local Community Mental Health Center: Main number: 401-235-7000 / Emergency Services: 401-235-7120
- Kids' Link RI – A hotline for children in emotional crises. Kids' Link RI is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for children suffering from behavioral problems or psychiatric illness: 1-855-543-5465
- Talking to Children About COVID-19 (Coronavirus): A Parent Resource:
[https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/school-climate-safety-and-crisis/health-crisis-resources/talking-to-children-about-covid-19-\(coronavirus\)-a-parent-resource](https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/school-climate-safety-and-crisis/health-crisis-resources/talking-to-children-about-covid-19-(coronavirus)-a-parent-resource)
- Samaritans of RI – Suicide Prevention Resource Center: 401-272-4044
- Alateen RI / AlateenRI@gmail.com / www.Alateenri.org: If you or someone you care about is dealing with alcohol or drugs

How will students obtain assistance from teachers on Distance Learning Days?

Teachers will be available via their email, directly from Google Classroom, videoconferencing, phone, and other applications. Google Classroom will be the platform used in grades K–12 to post student assignments, facilitate discussions, and submit work. Using Google Docs, teachers will share assignments, documents, spreadsheets, and presentations with students; teachers and students will collaboratively edit those documents. Collaborators on a document can view, comment on, and make changes to the document. This allows users to communicate with collaborators about specific parts of a document without having to send an email or message them. Teachers add notes, suggestions, or questions for students in the document. Comments are an excellent way for teachers to add specific notes for the author/student who wrote the file.

Accessibility features are available on a Chromebook and are easily activated. All Chromebooks are equipped with both a microphone and a camera. See specific instructions at [Google's support site](https://support.google.com/chromebook/answer/177893?hl=en) (<https://support.google.com/chromebook/answer/177893?hl=en>). See also [The Parents' Guide to Google Classroom](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1PDVZvie0DnFbFEVFB8U3j89o1mD5BCUXTE6ymbb9y_k/mobilepresent?fbclid=IwAR3kj3uLNVH_XOtN7K69zPC3ywh_oSC1QHdk3m3U6SX26NOL8pr6RDf5gN4#slide=id.g4f60ec15fb_1_0): https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1PDVZvie0DnFbFEVFB8U3j89o1mD5BCUXTE6ymbb9y_k/mobilepresent?fbclid=IwAR3kj3uLNVH_XOtN7K69zPC3ywh_oSC1QHdk3m3U6SX26NOL8pr6RDf5gN4#slide=id.g4f60ec15fb_1_0.

How much time is the student expected to work online during the Distance Learning Day?

No minimum or maximum amount of time is expected. Students should complete their work carefully, using the amount of time that is appropriate for them. Parents can reach out to teachers using the same platforms for communication identified for students to check on student engagement and progress toward individual learning goals.

When will class assignments be due?

Most assignments will be submitted through Google Classroom daily. As of today, the pen-and-paper assignments are due five school days after we return to school. However, this may be extended and adjusted based on need, as we are aware that our current situation is evolving. If the closure persists, then we may institute a system to have completed pen-and-paper work mailed in periodically.

My child receives free/reduced lunch. Is there a way to access food?

With the sudden closing of schools for the next week along with the possibility of school closures being extended, Ocean State Academy is working with our culinary department to provide families with food pickups and dates during this crisis. We plan to schedule food pickup opportunities to limit social exposure. The food provided will represent breakfast and lunch supplies for multiple days.

What if a student does not have access to the internet?

Teachers are aware that not all students have internet access at home and will provide accommodations when necessary for students without home internet access. OSA will be providing Chromebooks to any student who does not have current electronic capabilities.

“Paper-based” options will also be available to students, when appropriate.

Cox is now offering low-cost internet service, Connect2Compete, free for 30 days including premium remote desktop support: <https://www.cox.com/residential/internet/connect2compete.html?sc>.

Do students with identified special learning needs have an alternative means to access their education on Distance Learning Days?

Yes, individual supports, services, and accommodations for students with an Individual Education Program (IEP), Individual Learning Plan (ILP), or a Section 504 Plan are reviewed, discussed, and agreed upon at the student’s annual meeting, a Section 504 meeting, or general education plan meeting. Special educators will make necessary accommodations and modifications for students with IEPs. Accommodations may include changes in the following: presentation of a lesson, instructional strategies, student response format and procedures, time/scheduling, and/or assignment structure. Modifications are the changes made to provide a student with opportunities to participate meaningfully and productively. Modifications may include changes in: instructional level, content/curriculum, and/or performance criteria. Students will also have access to special educators and social workers via email, Google platforms, phone, or other virtual options.

What if I have questions about assignments?

Please contact your child’s teacher via their email.

Teacher Office Hours: 8:15 a.m. — 2:15 p.m. on Distance Learning Days

Please note the above statements are subject to change. Ocean State Academy will continue to evaluate and strive for excellence in all Distance Learning Days.