



NCEA Webinars

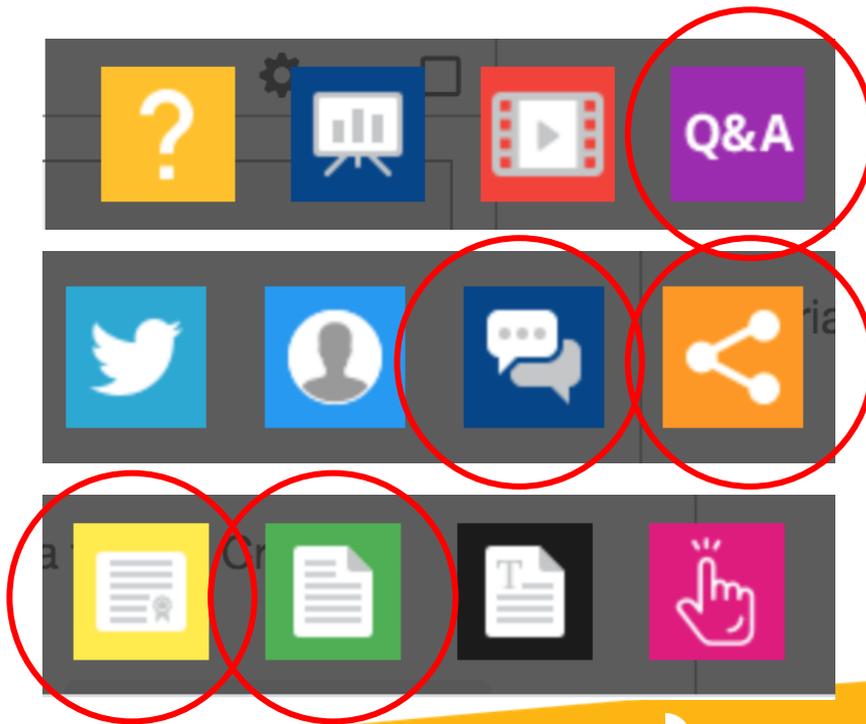
Transitioning Parents to Distance Learning

*March 24th, 2020
or On-Demand*

Housekeeping

Troubleshooting:

- Close background programs
- Clear browser history
- Use Google Chrome
- Log out and Log back in
- Reliable internet connection
- Check sound settings



Prayer



Mighty God, thank you for knowing us and you loving us. The ability to teach is a gift from you. Help us to use the gifts you have given us effectively. May we be filled with Your spirit to give use the enthusiasm, strength and love we need to carry out our new roles. Give us assurance that you are always with us. May God the Father prepare our journey, Jesus the Son guide our footsteps and the Holy Spirit watch over us, on every path that we follow. In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, Amen.

Adapted from: <https://connectusfund.org/11-inspirational-catholic-prayers-for-teachers-and-students>

Welcome to Homeschooling

“The best inheritance a parent can give his children is a few minutes of his time each day” —O.A. Battista

O.A. Battista, author of *The Power to Influence People*, was a devout Catholic Canadian-American chemist who lived his faith unashamed and recognized the gift that children are to our future.

We are all now being asked to give our children a few minutes of our day. That does not come without challenges but we can do this together.



Consistency is Compassion

Parents

- Create a dedicated learning space if possible (desk, dining room table)
- Create a learning time-frame that fits into *YOUR* schedule
- 2-6 hours a day dedicated to learning, depending on grade level
- Set realistic expectations

Teachers

- Communicate with parent partners frequently
- Please be considerate of parent schedules, many are also transitioning to work at home.
- Keep Expectations clear and simple
- Set realistic expectations

Set Realistic Expectations

The importance of setting realistic expectations is that it will reduce stress and create a successful learning environment. Remember the following:

When learning new content, it doesn't always come on the first try. Be patient. Communicate with teachers.

- Parents don't assume your student is being lazy or not trying. They may need additional help.
- Teachers do not assume that parents are going to be able to cover material the way that you do in class. Keep your lessons simple and easy to follow

Set Realistic Expectations

Remember that this is a stressful for **everyone**, teachers, students, and parents. We will get through this together, with grace and compassion.

Deuteronomy 31:8

“It is the Lord who goes before you; he will be with you and will never fail you or forsake you. So do not fear or be dismayed.”



Dedicated Learning Space

- **Create a space that you can monitor where your students will complete their work daily.**

This can be your dining room table, the kitchen island or a desk. No need to buy furniture, just choose a space to use consistently that will help provide an easy transition to distance learning.

Your space may have to serve as a work space during school time and another function in some other capacity at a different time. Be flexible.



Learning Space

Add supplies to the dedicated space particularly for younger kids.

- Include a pencil jar or art box, some paper and maybe notebooks and books students have brought home, space permitting. This aids in creating structure.

Create a Learning Schedule

- One of the benefits of working from home is flexibility of schedules.
- Educational research regarding the time of day learning best occurs is varied. Choose a time that creates the least amount of stress for everyone as the transition takes place.
- Parents may not be able to be present during schooling hours. Make sure your high school aged student or caregiver to younger students is given directions consistent with your goals.



Create a Learning Schedule

Grades Pre K-3rd Grade

Consider schooling for 2 hours a day.



You may feel this is not enough time but consider the following:

- You will not be calculating lunch, class change and special area classes into your day.
- This will be dedicated time to reading, math, social studies, science and religion class.
- Give your student stretch breaks or a snack break at the mid way point. Be flexible!
- Special areas such as physical education can be conducted at a later time.

Create a Learning Schedule for Grades 4-6



Consider schooling for 3-4 hours per day.

- Students this age will be a little more independent and will need parents more as a facilitator than a hands on teacher.
- As with younger students, be sure to schedule in breaks for your student. Transitioning between subjects is a good time to allow a brief stretch break or snack break.
- Reduce distractions. Students at this age have access to more electronic devices. Unless being used for school, televisions, phones and game consoles should not be in use during the learning process.



Create a Learning Schedule for Grades 7-9

Consider schooling for 4-5 hours per day.

- Students this age are even more independent and should be encouraged to take personal responsibility to some degree.
- As with younger students, schedule breaks, but allow the student some input in time management. This is a great opportunity to teach wise time management practices.
- Reduce distractions. Students this age are even more distracted by devices than their younger counterparts. Turn phones off and place in a separate room, unless being used for an instructional activity.

Create a Learning Schedule for Grades 10-12

Consider schooling for 6-7 hours per day.

- Students this age are independent and may be completing work in a subject you may not be familiar with, encourage students to communicate with teachers and peers.
- Students should be self directed. Check in with them to offer supports.
- Reduce distractions. At this level students are often taking timed practices or working out intense science labs. Provide them with quiet space free from distractions when needed. <https://www.edutopia.org/video/whats-executive-function-and-why-does-it-matter>



Resources for Pre-K-5th Grade Parents and Teachers

Parents should complete the work sent home by teachers and follow the prescribed curriculum of the school, however, below are some resources for enrichment or additional practice.

Math: <https://www.homeschoolmath.net/> This site provides free printable practice math sheets, articles about math education for parents and math games.

Social Studies: https://www.education.com/worksheets/social-studies/?gclid=Cj0KCQjwmdzzBRC7ARIsANdqRRkL_xH9NmDHk6GsIMZ3-tOfh-_AhjrEeYHVpwd9mEUc0S5WklCtkf4aAuHBEALw_wcB Education.com is offering free access during school closures. A free account is required.

Resources for Pre-K-5th Grade Parents and Teachers

Reading: <https://www.k5learning.com/reading-comprehension-worksheets> This site offers free printable worksheets based on both grade level and skill set.

Science: <https://superstarworksheets.com/science-worksheets/> There are many printable sheets for science here but there are great sheets for other subjects too!

Religion: <https://catholicblogger1.blogspot.com/> This site has everything from sacrament activities to lesson plans and planners. This is a great time to teach students a favorite prayer, start a family novena, or join your favorite priest, bishop or the Pope for a daily devotion.

Physical Education: <https://onlypassionatecuriosity.com/13-homeschool-pe-ideas/> This is your chance to be a kid again! There are many fun activities suggested here.

Resources for Pre-K-5th Grade Parents and Teachers for Communication and Fun!

- Communicate through ClassDojo. It brings everyone together.
<https://www.classdojo.com/>
- Create a free class blog to share with families at <https://edublogs.org/>
- Khan Academy has a kids platform called Khan Academy Kids that is highly rated.
<https://khankids.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/articles/360004559231-Welcome-to-Khan-Academy-Kids>
- Tiny Tap Kids is also highly ranked by teachers there are many educational games and subjects to choose from <https://www.tinytap.it/>
- With parent permission, student art can be published on Artsonia. This is a free service <https://www.artsonia.com/>

Electronic Resources for Parents and Teachers

Reading/Cross-Curricular

NEWSELA

-Set up a free account to NEWSELA at <https://newsela.com/>.

- Newsela provides a variety of online sources for free.
- This site is devoted to reading content. There are text sets, individual current articles, primary source analysis lessons.
- Teachers have the option of creating a classroom.
- The reading level can be adjusted on text assignments to differentiate for varied levels.



Electronic Resources for Parents and Teachers

Reading/Cross-Curricular

Common Lit

- Set up a free account at Common Lit at <https://www.commonlit.org/>
- Customize to you state standards if you like
- Choose Spanish or English Texts
- Access to text sets, articles aligned to literature and other content books, literary device practice, theme or genre.



Electronic Resources for Parents and Teachers

- Explore your state public school websites for content.
 - Examples from Florida-Please feel free to use these
 - <https://www.floridastudents.org/>
 - This is the State of Florida operated and vetted site. Lessons are peer reviewed.
 - This site has complete lessons, many that are interactive.
 - Not all grade levels are covered.
 - <http://ecsd-fl.schoolloop.com/EOCReviews>
 - This site is the Escambia County Florida End of Course Exam Test review site.
 - There are many great activities that are applicable to areas outside the End of Course Exams which will not be given this year.
 - **Math Nation is offering free service through August 31, 2020.**

Electronic Resources for Technology Lessons

- The TinkerCad site allows students to create 3-D models online.
<https://www.tinkercad.com/learn/designs>
- Hopscotch is available for Apple only. This coding app teaches kids young as 9 how to code. <https://www.gethopscotch.com/>
- Students develop their own programs using ScratchJr.
<https://www.scratchjr.org/>
- Scratch programming and games are geared to older students
<https://scratch.mit.edu/>



Electronic Resources for Teachers

- Zoom is offering free distance education tools at this time. Make video lessons or messages. Your students miss you!

<https://zoom.us/docs/en-us/covid19.html>



- Everfi is an online classroom platform. You can create a free account here <https://platform.everfi.net/registration/login>

- Google Classroom is a great way to communicate with students and families. Google created videos for parents to better help them understand how to maximize their Google Classroom experience.

https://edu.google.com/products/classroom/?modal_active=none

Electronic Resources for Teachers

- Don't forget the resources you may already have in place through your school such as FOCUS, Canvas or BlackBoard. Most of these can push mass communications to parents.
- Communicate with parents frequently through whatever means you have. Parents need your support now more than they did before.
- Check out this blog for more favorite apps.
<https://blog.ed.ted.com/2015/09/19/25-awesome-apps-for-teachers-recommended-by-teachers/>
- YouTube and TeacherTube videos can enhance your lessons. Screen YouTube videos to ensure they are appropriate.

Homeschooling Can Be Fun!

- Teachers, suggest fun activities families can participate in together that align with your curriculum. Nature walk activity logs, and scavenger hunts are fun and entertaining.
- Have younger kids help with meal preparation. Cooking is math, science and history. Explore what you are eating. Here is a link to Thomas Jefferson's recipe for Macaroni and Cheese. Did you know he is credited with bringing this American favorite to us from France?

<https://revolutionarypie.com/2013/10/20/macaroni-and-cheese/>



Homeschooling Can Be Fun!

- Teachers, assign webquests or virtual field trips where appropriate. Older students are accustomed to independent learning and these fun visual lessons can engage students .
- Find teacher and expert created activities on museum websites.
 - National Archives <https://www.archives.gov/education/lessons>
 - PhET Interactive Science and Math simulations can be found here <https://phet.colorado.edu/>
 - The National WWII Museum offers great resources to teachers and families <https://www.nationalww2museum.org/students-teachers>
 - Check out this article with many free resources-<https://abc7ny.com/6035120/>

Remember to Love and Serve Others

- Students may get out and mow an elderly neighbor's yard and log that in their activity journal.
- Have students make cards, either virtual or traditional, to send to a hospital or nursing home.
- Students may take turns posting what they are thankful for on their class webpage.
- Schools, create virtual spirit weeks. Post your fun socks day or other activities on your school website.

