



We Build Futures

Neshaminy School District

Administrative Offices • 2250 Langhorne-Yardley Road • Langhorne, PA 19047

April 10, 2020


Dear Neshaminy Elementary Families,



Yesterday, Governor Wolf extended his order to close Pennsylvania schools through the end of the school year. With this new announcement, I want to reassure all families that our plan for Online Instruction, which begins on Monday, is designed to enable us to continue teaching through June 15, 2020. Our teachers are fully prepared and committed to provide engaging, standards-aligned instruction through our new Canvas Platform. Online Instruction is new for everyone and we will support every family in every way that we can to ensure students are successful.

Think of Monday as our **“First Day of School”**, for Online Instruction. Just as I reminded our teachers, if you find yourself overwhelmed, take a deep breath and remember this is brand new. Each day, week, and month it will become more familiar and more comfortable for everyone. We are here to help everyone as we learn something new!

As we set to begin Online Instruction with the use of the Canvas Platform, I want to remind parents of the Canvas Student and Parent Orientation Training Course (<https://neshaminy.instructure.com/courses/15960>). This orientation provides an overview of Canvas, each component within Canvas, as well as helpful resources for reference. In addition to the Orientation Training Course, we held two separate livestream events demonstrating how to access Clever, Canvas, and demonstrated how to create a parent account. I have included the recording of the livestream as an additional resource to support you and your child as we transition to Online Instruction (<https://live.myvrspot.com/iframe?v=YzY5ZmE2MGY5OTA1ZThjYzA1YWVmNGNiODMzMtBiNDI>).

One of the topics covered in both the orientation and livestream is creating a parent account. This is very important step so that you can participate as an observer. Creating a parent account as an observer and signing up for the Canvas Parent App are two different things. I have included a visual below that outlines the difference between the two accounts.

 Canvas Observer	 Canvas Parent
Used On: Your computer or laptop	Used On: Your phone or tablet/iPad
Best For: When you want to see your student's full Canvas experience.	Best For: When you want to quickly check in on your student's progress, see announcements, and communicate with the teachers.
What You Can See: Everything your student can see, exactly how they see it.	What You Can See: Announcements, individual items that are due, student progress, Canvas Inbox.
Great For: Seeing all of the Modules and content in a course.	Great For: Setting up notifications for students, seeing multiple students in a family.

 CANVAS  INSTRUCTURE

I encourage every parent to create a Parent Account in Canvas as an observer. I will post specific directions on our website outlining how to create a parent account (directions are also included in the Parent Orientation Training link above). If you are still interested in the Parent App after you create your parent account in Canvas, I will also include specific directions on the website. Remember the parent app is only going to allow you to view announcements, due dates, progress, etc. It provides a quick overview, but it will not allow you to view the entire experience that your child receives including the lessons, activities, extensions, etc. for each content area.

Online Learning Expectations

Every child will receive a course that will include the following:

- English Language Arts (ELA)
- Math
- Social Studies
- Science
- Specials (Art, Library, Music, P.E., and Social Emotional Learning)

Students that receive additional services (Special Education, Academic Enrichment, and/or English Language Development) will receive an additional course.

Each content area (ELA, Math, Science, and Social Studies) will include daily lessons and activities that are designed to require approximately thirty minutes of a student's time each day (two hours in total). Content areas have also provided an extension activity that is optional. Monday through Thursday, structured lessons can include a warm-up, lesson, practice activities, and an exit ticket. Fridays are less formal and offer options for online activities. Think of Friday as a "Fun Friday" to reinforce skills as well as allow time for students to complete any work from the previous days.

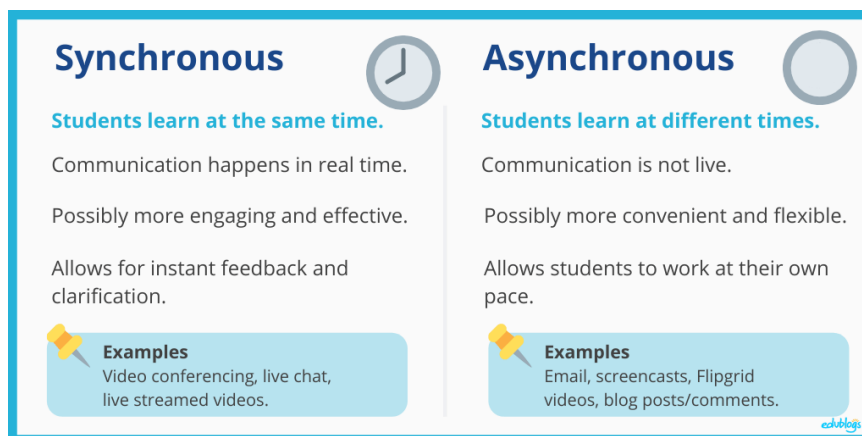
In addition to the content areas, each student will have one special each day of the week. The schedule below outlines each special by grade. We encourage students to complete the special outlined for a given day based on their grade, but it is important to know that all lessons will be available throughout the week.

SPECIALS ROTATION					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
KINDERGARTEN	Art	Library	Music	PE	SEL
GRADE 1	SEL	Art	Library	Music	PE
GRADE 2	PE	SEL	Art	Library	Music
GRADE 3	Music	PE	SEL	Art	Library
GRADE 4	Library	Music	PE	SEL	Art

All content and special lessons will be released and available to students every Monday morning for the entire week. Within the content courses the lessons are organized by day (M-F). It is important that your child complete the lessons and activities in sequential order.

As a reminder, we are providing asynchronous instruction via Canvas. Students will work in their individual Canvas Courses under the supervision of their classroom teachers on a mostly asynchronous basis. This permits students (and families) the flexibility to work on school at any time during the

day. There is no requirement for the entire class and teacher to be doing anything at the same time. However, some teachers will periodically offer synchronous Video Conferences, but this is not required. So think asynchronous learning with a periodic splash of synchronicity. Teachers will also be working in an asynchronous schedule to assist in meeting both the needs of their students and their individual families at home. We organized our lessons this way to provide flexibility for every family as this is a very difficult time. I included a visual of synchronous and asynchronous below to demonstrate the differences.




During the asynchronous online instruction, I provided a few tips for learning at home:

1. Create a learning space for you child:
 - a. Provide a space for your child to complete their work, this will provide a structured area for your child. Examples: Kitchen or dining room table.
2. Create a schedule for your day:
 - a. Outline when your child should complete Online Instruction lessons. Schedule times that will work for your family. Some days the morning may work, but other days due to work schedules, etc. you may need to schedule time in the evening.
 - b. Example: 9:00-11:30 AM – Online Instruction; or break the times up throughout the day/evening.
 - c. Remember, schedule times based on your family schedule. If your family is not available one day, add time to another day. We have provided the instruction so that children can access it at any time.
3. Reduce Distractions and provide breaks:
 - a. Attempt to remove distractions like the TV so your child can focus of the lessons provided. Many children will need frequent breaks during instruction. Some great ideas for breaks include exercise (take a walk), coloring, having a snack, etc.
4. Remember to use the calendar in Canvas:
 - a. The calendar will indicate when activities are due as well as what is next. If you your child is unable to complete something by the due date, that is not a problem at all. The due dates are there to provide a structure only at this point. By working in an asynchronous environment, remember to complete them when your child and family are able to base don your schedules.
5. Ask for help:
 - a. Reach out to your child’s teacher for help if your child is stuck and or not understanding how to complete an activity. You child’s teacher will have hours throughout the week to help. In addition, you and/or you child can send a message or email through Canvas asking for assistance.

Lastly, I have provided an example of one of the content lessons a kindergarten child will see on Monday when they receive their course in Canvas. The example below is a Neshaminy teacher-designed lesson with activities for Kindergarten Social Studies. Each grade is specific to the content, standards, and level.

Lesson:

▼ Ss.1 Social Studies Week One (April 13, 2020)
📄 Ss "How to record a video/audio for assignments"
MONDAY
📄 Ss1.1 Warm Up & Lesson: How to Be a Good Citizen
🔗 Ss1.2 Exit Ticket: How to Be a Good Citizen Apr 13 2 pts
📄 Ss1.3 Social Studies: Extension and Looking Ahead: How to be a Good Citizen



A red arrow points from the 'Ss1.1 | Warm Up & Lesson: How to Be a Good Citizen' item in the Canvas course list to the video player.

In summary, Online Instruction begins on Monday, April 13, 2020. Elementary education will be conducted mostly asynchronously. Students will not be required to log on to Canvas at a specific time and interact with a lesson. Students may log on and complete assignments at a time that works best for your family's schedule.

Our teachers and administrators will continue to work throughout the school year to provide grade level instruction as well as assist every student and family in every way possible. Thank you for your continued patience and support during this time.

Sincerely,

Michelle Burkholder
Director of Elementary Education