

The Merrimack Institute for New Teacher Support (MINTS) Presents:

The Local District Supports Packet

Merrimack College
School of Education and Social Policy
North Andover, Massachusetts

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Merrimack College thanks you for your resilience during this transition to online learning!





Pedagogical Remote Practices

- ★ Key Factors for Remote Learning
- ★ Best Practices for Providing Remote Feedback



Key Factors for Remote Learning

- What your students will miss the most is the human connection that is cultivated in your classroom.
- The little interactions you have with them in the hallways, before and after class or during breaks in lessons, are irreplaceable.
- While it can be tempting to focus on content in your distance learning assignments and instructional videos, what matters more is creating structures for personalized touchpoints with your students.





Source: Edutopia

Key Factors for Remote Learning

- You can create these touchpoints through any medium you like: emails, video messages, phone calls, messages through your learning management system, comments on shared documents, etc.
- Create a structure and stick to it.
- Your students will see your investment and know that you care about them.





Key Factors for Remote Learning

- It's important to bear in mind that cultivating an engaging distance learning experience is hard.
- It takes time and an incredible amount of patience.
- If you are new to the experience, you're probably going to feel like a first-year teacher again.
- That's OK! Tackle the challenges step by step, keep your students updated on your progress, and stay positive.

YOU'VE GOTTHIS!



Best Practices for Providing Remote Feedback

- 1) Use Proactive Language: Be constructive and encouraging
- 2) Avoid using these 3 words: should, but, and however Example phrase to use: "I really like what you did here, and I think you're on the right track. Why not try adding/continuing with/trying this as well?"
- 3) Ask guiding questions:"What do you think?""What's another way we can approach this?"
- 4) Use Visuals:DiagramsImagesQuick sketches



Best Practices for Providing Remote Feedback

- Check for Understanding (ask the following questions):Does this all make sense to you?Do you have any other questions or anything to add?Are you seeing some new possibilities for how you can move forward?
- 6) Feedback should be done in a timely manner, particularly for remote learners
- 7) Student feedback should reference a skill or specific knowledge:

 This is when rubrics become a useful tool. A rubric is an instrument to communicate expectations for an assignment.

<u>Effective rubrics</u> provide students with very specific information about their performance, comparative to an established range of standards. For younger students, try highlighting rubric items that the student is meeting or try using a sticker chart.

Source: Wabisabi Learning

Feedback

tell something you liked...

- · I really liked Low You...
- I like the part when...

tell something to work on...

- Can you add In/lake out...
- You might want to add more details when...
- Let's think of another way to say...
- Can you clarify...

- tell semething to correct...
 - Capitalization
 - · Punctuation
 - Spelling
 - · Missing words









Prospect Mountain High School Writing Rubric

Essential Elements	1	2	3	4	5
	*No thesis, undeveloped or vague thesis, theme or topic *Few or no relevant details	*Inconsistent or basic development of thesis, theme, or topic; limited in depth or clarity *Details lack elaboration; important details omitted; some details inaccurate	*Adequate development of thesis, theme, or topic; *Conclusion is more than a summary *Details are adequate, accurate, relevant; some elaboration	*Consistently & fully developed thesis, theme or topic; *Draws a conclusion *Details are specific, enhance development, and are elaborated upon	*Clearly & fully developed, original, insightful thesis, theme, topic & conclusion *Rich supporting details are fully elaborated upon & enhance development
Information Integration	*No evidence of understanding the subject or content *No connection between subject or content and task	*Inaccurate or basic understanding of subject or content *Few connections to subject or content and task	*Adequate understanding of subject or content *Implied connection between subject or content and task	*Clear understanding of subject or content *Clear connections between subject or content and task	*In-depth analysis of subject or content *Insightful connections between subject or content information and task
Organization & Format	*Lacks focus and organization or unclear focus organizational strategy *Format of paper is not consistent with assignment	*Establish but does not maintain focus *Organizational strategy includes some transitions *The paper has major formatting issues	Maintains a clear and appropriate focus Logical progression of ideas with transitions, some inconsistencies *Some of the paper is formatted correctly with minor inconsistencies	*Clear and appropriate focus; *Logical & controlled organization throughout; *Appropriate transitions; not formulaic *A majority of the paper is formatted correctly	*Clear and appropriate focus *Effective use of appropriate transitions *Writer expresses relationships among ideas; *Careful & subtle organization *Entire paper is formatted correctly
Word Choice, Sentence Variety and Structure	*Poor sentence structure; many fragments and/or run-ons *No sentence variety *Limited vocabulary; or consistently inappropriate for purpose	*Complete sentences; *Rudimentary sentence variety *Appropriate vocabulary	*Deliberate sentence variety *Effective vocabulary	*Sentence variety enhances style & effect *Varied and precise word choice	*Complex sentence variety enhances style & effect *Sophisticated language
Grammar, Usage & Mechanics	*Errors in grammar, usage & mechanics make writing unclear; or distract *Few or no citations	*Errors in grammar, usage & mechanics disproportionate to length & complexity of piece *Pattern of major citation errors	*Some errors in grammar, usage & mechanics *Pattern of minor citation errors	*Few errors in grammar, usage & mechanics *Some citation errors	*Mastery of grammar, usage & mechanics *Few or no citation errors





Teacher Planning Practices

Daily Schedule Resources and Exemplar Sample Schedules

★ Instructional Materials & Resources for Parents



Sample Routine Schedule

8:30	Wake up	Get ready for the morning
9:00-9:30	Move Your Body	Walk the dog, stretch, yoga, Go Noodle
9:30-11:00	Academic time	* Recommended Subjects: Math and ELA Assignments
11:00-12:00	Creative time	Unified Arts Assignments Extras: Legos, magnatiles, drawing, crafting, play, music, cook or bake etc.
12:00	Lunch/Recess	Eat something yummy and help your parents with chores!
12:30 - 2:00	Academic Time	* Recommended Subjects: Language, Science, S.S. Assignments
2:00 - 2:30	Quiet time	Reading, puzzles, nap
2:30-3:00	Afternoon Fresh Air	Get outside on those sunny, warm days and get some exercise in

NOTES:

 * Teachers have recommended when to do each subject area, but assignments DO NOT have to be done during these times.



^{*}This is just a SUGGESTED schedule. It DOES NOT have to be followed.

Exemplar Sample: Grade 3 Golden Brook School Schedule

1	Day 1 Wednesday, March 18		
	Math: • 10-1 Use an Open Number Line to Multiply		Day 2 Thursday, March 19
	Video - Visual Learning Link Quick Check #1-5 Math Fact practice - reflex.com Link or 10 minute math fact practice		Math: 10-2: Use Properties to Multiply Video - Visual Learning Link Quick Check #1-5 Math Fact practice - reflex.com Link or 10 minute math fact practice
	Reading: Winn Dixie Review Assignment: Listen to Chapter 7 & 8 Answer Comprehension Questions		Reading Winn Dixie Review Assignment: Listen to Chapter 98/10 Answer Comprehension Questions
	Writing: Persuasive Writing Day 1: Link to Assignment -Online Graphic Organizer Science: Adaptations • You tube Video Camel https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YpGg-m8wyY4 • Read Adaptation Book Posted on Unified Classroom-Pages 1-10 • Link to the Adaptation Book		Writing: Persuasive Writing Continue working on your assignment in Google Drive. DO NOT REOPEN THE LINK FROM DAY ONE Skill: Introduction Paragraph
			Science: Adaptations- Continued Link from yesterday Read the Adaptations book pages 11-22 Link to the Adaptation Book
			Social Studies: Windham
	Social Studies: Windham Day 1: Where in the World?		Day 2: Where in the World? • open up your copy of "Windham Remote Unit" in your google drive from yesterday. • complete day 2
	 click link and create a copy for your google drive complete day 1 		



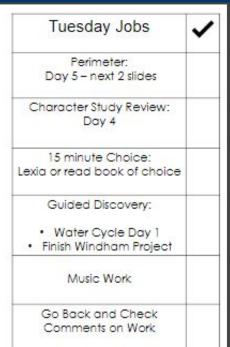
Sample: Grade 3 Golden Brook School "Flex Day"

Flex Day Day 16, Wednesday April 8 Math: FLEX that Math Brain Check to be sure all assignments are complete. (Remember these are in your Google Drive.) Read teacher comments to see if there is anything to fix. If everything is complete, play 15 minutes of Reflex ELA: Check to be sure all assignments are complete. (Remember these are in your Google Drive.) Read teacher comments to see if there is anything to fix. Figurative Language assignments Alliteration Onomatopoeia On Demand Persuasive Writing- Graded Assignment Due today Review: Edit, Revise Share with your teacher If everything is complete, choose from: Lexia Read Book of Choice Typing Practice Raz-Kids Free Read Guided Discovery: Finish your nest. Make sure to insert your picture into the Google Doc and share it will your teacher. Complete Economics Days 1 & 2 Wants and Needs Good and Services If everything is complete read a non-fiction book for 10 minutes.



Grade 3 Golden Brook School: Student Schedule Checklist

Monday Jobs	~
Perimeter:	
Day 5 – first 2 slides	
Character Study Review:	
Day 3	
15 minute Choice:	
Lexia or read book of choice	
Guided Discovery:	
Water Cycle Day 1	
Finish Windham Project	_
Art Work	
Go Back and Check	
Comments on Work	



Wednesday Jobs	~
Perimeter Assignments: Complete	
If complete: 15 minutes of math facts, Reflex or Matific	
Character Study Review: Complete through day 4	
If complete: Lexia, Read Book of Choice, Typing Practice, Raz-Kids Free Read, Epic Books	
Guided Discovery:	
Water Cycle through Day 2 Finish Windham Project	
Library Work	
Go Back and Check Comments on Work	

Thursday Jobs	~
Perimeter Quiz	
Character Study Review: Day 5	
15 minute Choice: Lexia or read book of choice	
Guided Discovery:	
Hurricanes – Day 3 Finish Windham Project	
PE Work	
Go Back and Check Comments on Work	

Exemplar Sample - Crest Collaborative Schedule

 View an exemplary schedule created by CREST Collaborative, Methuen, MA via these links:

- <u>Elementary Academic</u>
- Functional/Life Skills

SEL Resource Packet - Crest Collaborative





Free Instructional Materials

- <u>Learning Ovations Home Literacy Coach</u>. A web-based application for K-3 reading instruction that includes curated research based activities designed by teachers for parents. While schools are closed, this resource is being offered free of charge.
- <u>Kidappolis</u>. An app that enables parents to use screen time as deep learning time, through interactive, caregiver-led early learning opportunities. Personalized, curated app recommendations foster specific early learning, literacy, and numeracy goals. Until the 2021 school year begins, this app being offered for free, using code: FREE.
- Zearn. Online math lessons customized for K-5 grades including 400 hours of digital lessons with on-screen teachers.



Free Instructional Materials

- Khan Academy. Educational resource and guides that includes daily live streams on Facebook,
 YouTube, and Twitter for students, parents, and teachers navigating school closures.
- <u>Eureka Math</u>. Online resources for math, English language, and science broken out by grade level.
- <u>Scholastic Learn at Home</u>. Keep the learning going with special cross-curricular journeys. Every day includes four separate learning experiences, each built around a story or video.





Free Instructional Materials

- <u>Mystery Science</u>. A curated starter set of science lessons from the creator of the most popular science lessons in U.S. schools. Short mini-lessons are completely digital and full lessons include an activity. All of the activities are designed to use simple supplies a parent will likely already have at home.
- Mindful Schools. Live online classes designed for K-5 grade students that include mindful activities, movement, and read-alouds.
- Resources for Educators. A curated list of standards-aligned curricula that are highly rated, free and available online, as well as other select supplemental resources for educators.





Educational YouTube Channels

- <u>Liberty's Kids</u>. A narrative account of the American Revolution, spread over 40 episodes.
- <u>Crash Course Kids</u>. Short videos that explore the world of science, with new videos every Tuesday and Thursday.
- Mark Rober. A former NASA engineer who comes up with fun and engaging ways to explore science and engineering.





Educational Activities

- Raising Wonder. Free art lessons, printable activities, stories, and more.
- <u>PBS Kids Learn & Grow</u>. Whether it's learning empathy, honesty and self-confidence, or reading, music and problem solving, there are opportunities and challenges at every age. Help them thrive at every stage with tips and activities for ages 2 to 8.
- Virtual Museum Tours. Top museums around the world are offering online tours and exhibits.
- <u>Cosmic Kids Yoga</u>. Yoga, mindfulness and relaxation designed specially for kids aged 3+.
- <u>Libby</u>. Borrow ebooks and audiobooks for free through your local library.
- <u>Cooking with Kids</u>. How-to videos in English and Spanish, recipes, and tips can help bring children into the kitchen to participate in making meals.



Podcasts for Kids

- <u>History Chicks</u>. Hosted by two moms, each of their hour-long episodes tells the story of a famous woman from history.
- Brains On!. Encouraging kids' natural curiosity and wonder using science and history, Brains
 On! helps to find answers to fascinating questions about the world.
- <u>The Past and the Curious</u>. Bite-sized episodes share true stories of inspiration, humor, and the incredible achievements of all types of people.
- <u>The Punies by Kobe Bryant</u>. Featuring an eclectic group of neighborhood friends known as The Good Ol' Gang, each episode shares important life lessons on how to play with joy and limitless imagination, the way sports should be played.



Podcasts for Kids Continued...

- Ear Snacks. A musical podcast that considers music, science, art, and culture in a fun-filled family-friendly way.
- Wow in the World. A show from NPR that explores fun and fascinating topics in the world of science and technology.





Tips for Students

Discussion Board Tips for Secondary Students

★ Remote Learning Tips for Students



Learning Processes in Discussion Boards



Learning processes can be understood as ways that we gain and build knowledge. Three of the more common learning processes are included here. Additionally you'll find examples of how discussion board prompts encourage these approaches to thinking, along with suggestions of how you can help students consistently apply them.

What is it?

Critical Thinking

Reflective Logical Evidence-based

The process of "evaluating the accuracy, credibility, and worth of information and lines of reasoning."

Constructivism

Individual & Social

The process of constructing and organizing knowledge, rather than just acquiring or absorbing it.

Metacognition

Thinking about thinking

Awareness and understandings of one's own thinking and learning process.

How is it applied in Discussion Boards?

Discussion board prompts often ask students to think critically of the course concepts. Threads can be seen as opportunities for persuasive arguments, where students defend their perspective through reasoning and respectfully challenge others.

Example prompt:

Choose two existing companies to evaluate: one large company and one small company. Through research, develop a short list of their top three competitive advantages. In your opinion, are these advantages sustainable?

Discussion boards support social constructivism by bringing people together to work through and make sense of their experiences as it relates to learning while creating engagement.

Example prompt: Have you ever experienced a situation where you were judged for your age, gender, race, or size? Describe the instance and how you would handle it differently next time. Be sure to include three of the conflict resolution and assertive communication techniques from this week's reading. Respond to a peer's solution by adding a suggestion that may also be helpful in the given incident.

Discussion boards encourage self-reflection, where students can exchange their learning processes and strategies.

Example prompt:

What do you know about running your own business-about being your own boss? Have you ever considered working for yourself rather than having a job and working for someone else? Can you think of any advantages and disadvantages to being a small business owner *an entrepreneur?

How can you encourage it?

Encourage intellectual skepticism!

- Model this learning process through asking probing and challenging questions.
- Share resources and provide reasoning.
- Encourage differences in perspective while maintaining group harmony.

Seek and value students' points of view!

- Bring relevance to the course concepts
- Ask students what they think they know and why they know it.
- Analyze students' understanding and customize instructional practice.

Acknowledge and highlight learning processes!

- Reinforce effective learning processes students share.
- Provide solutions/suggestions where learning strategies could be more efficient.
- Model learning and study strategies.

Remote Learning Tips for Students



Stick to your existing schedule

• "Try to keep to your timetable as much as you can. It will really help you to vary what you study at home and your teachers are more likely to be online at those points in the day to help you specifically." Niamh Sweeney, teacher, Long Road sixth-form college, Cambridge

Make the most of freebies

 "Search the web for free resources for your subject. There are numerous websites now offering premium content for free during the crisis." Alex Goldsmith, maths teacher, the Alleyne's academy, Stevenage



Source: The Guardian, 2020

Remote Learning Tips for Students



Stay positive

"Keep a journal. Each day, spend six minutes writing about the following: three things you are
grateful for, how you plan to make today great, a good deed you will do that day, how you plan
to improve yourself and, at the end of it, some great things you experienced that day." Chris
Hirst, Stretford high school, Manchester

Look after yourself

"Try not to worry about the situation. As soon as schools and colleges know what is happening about college and university applications, we will let you know. Take a break from social media

 and don't forget to wash your hands." Niamh Sweeney



Source: The Guardian, 2020

Remote Learning Tips for Students



Challenge yourself

- "Read a book you haven't read before. Take a photography challenge: document your time in isolation in photographs (your mood, what you did, how you felt).
 - Calculate the value of Pi to as many decimal points as you can.
 - Learn a dance step or a magic trick from the internet.
 - Make a meal from whatever you have in the cupboards extra marks for putting together a totally original, mad or weird recipe.
 - Go online to <u>kids.guinnessworldrecords.com</u> and find a World Record that you can try to break at home.
 - Pick a household chore, like ironing, and learn how to do it." Chris Hirst



Source: The Guardian, 2020



External Teacher Resources

★ Resources Per Academic Subject

(English Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, Specials, Music)



Resources - English Language Arts/Reading

- https://www.biguniverse.com
 - Access to leveled ebooks



- Build strong writers through interest-based curriculum, adaptive exercises, and data
- www.newsela.com
 - Students can continue to read nonfiction and research some persuasive essay topics
- https://www.storylineonline.net/library/
 - Listen to picture books read by famous actors, great for all ages
- https://www.dogonews.com/
 - You can read about current events happening around the world





Resources - English Language Arts/Reading

- https://www.readworks.org/
 - FREE content, curriculum, and tools to power teaching and learning from Kindergarten to 12th Grade

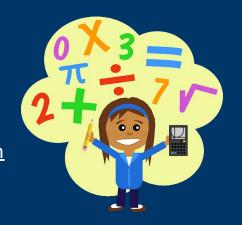


- https://www.freckle.com/
 - Freckle empowers teachers to differentiate instruction across Math, ELA, Social Studies and Science
- https://www.commonlit.org/
 - You can read fiction and nonfiction passages and answer questions about the text
- https://go.brainpop.com/access-free-stuff/family
 - Create a free account and you can watch educational videos on a variety of topics



Resources - Mathematics

- Digital Textbook for Math
- Khan Academy Lessons that Correlate with 6th Grade Math Program
- XTra Math for Fact Practice
- NearPod
- Math Playground Games & Activities
- Multiplying And Dividing Decimals Using Number Sense
- Illustrated Math Dictionary
- Khan Academy (6th grade resource with links)





Resources - Mathematics

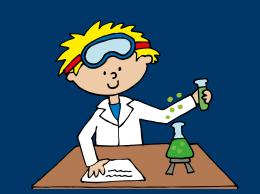
- www.prodigygame.com
 - Fun math practice for grades 1-8
- https://www.freckle.com/
 - Freckle empowers teachers to differentiate instruction across
 Math, ELA, Social Studies and Science
- https://www.pbslearningmedia.org/subjects/mathematics/
 - Bring math concepts to life through interactive games, animations and engaging media resources





Resources - Science

- www.brainpop.com
 - Free for all during school closures
- https://phet.colorado.edu/
 - Free interactive science and math simulations
- https://mysteryscience.com/
 - Open-and-go lessons (best for K-5, but could also work with grade 6)
- https://www.ck12.org/browse/
 - The CK-12 Foundation was founded with the mission to enable everyone to learn in his or her own way... Good for all subjects
- http://www.bozemanscience.com/
 - Bozeman's YouTube Channel

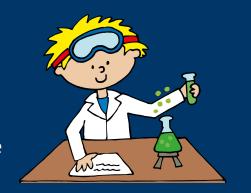




Source: Ellington Public Schools, Ellington, CT

Resources - Science

- https://www.pbslearningmedia.org/subjects/science/
 - Discover free resources designed for your lesson plan for science
- http://chem4kids.com/
 - o Information on matter, atoms, elements, the periodic table, reactions, and biochemistry
- Science A-Z
 - Books and comprehension questions related to science free 14-day trial
- https://mailchi.mp/tynker/in-support-of-schools-facing-health-related-closure
 - Coding
- https://code.org/learn
 - Coding





Resources - Social Studies

- http://www.geography4kids.com/
 - This site has an introduction to the earth sciences that includes topics on the Earth's <u>structure</u>, <u>atmosphere</u>, <u>hydrosphere</u>, and <u>biosphere</u>





Resources - Specials

- https://www.breakoutedu.com/funathome
 - Library
- https://www.pbslearningmedia.org/subjects/the-arts/visual-art/
 - Art
- https://www.pbslearningmedia.org/subjects/health-and-physical-education/
 - Physical Education





Resources - Music

- Classics for Kids
- Chrome Music Lab Experiments
- Dallas Symphony Orchestra
- Encore Youth Education Music Programs in Piano
- PBS Kids Games
- Video Network on Music K8
- The Kennedy Center Artsedge
- NYU Music Experience Design Lab
- BrainPOP Free Music Activities





Thank You, Educators!



If your district would like any additional support, please reach out to Amanda Alcox, New Teacher Support Specialist, at Merrimack College.

Email: mints@merrimack.edu

Webpage: merrimack.edu/mints

Public Facebook Page: @MINTSMERRIMACK

Closed Facebook Group: Merrimack Institute for New Teachers Support (MINTS)

