The School District of Manatee County
Student and Family FAQ for eLearning

General

Q: Will students or families need to report to the school?
A: No. The eLearning program is designed to be done 100% at home.

Q. Will eLearning be compulsory or can kids and parents just forget about the last quarter?
A. eLearning learning is **NOT** optional. Participation in the Instructional Continuity Plan is essential to complete the academic school year for your child.

Q: What are the expectations for student hours?
A: The student school day remains as is. We recognize that students may be working on assignments at other times of the day in response to family schedules, however, teachers are only available during regular school hours.

Q. Will there be schedules for students to log on based on their grade level or by their specific classes they need to take to communicate with their peers and teachers?
A. Some teachers may offer video conferencing instructional opportunities, but they will communicate directly with their students. The teacher's Schoology "Updates" Pages are the best place to get up to date information.

Technology

Q: When will my student's instruction be ready in Schoology?
A: They are ready now! However, teachers need time to activate their classroom instructional plans before students can see them. Teachers are working diligently to activate those instructional tools no later than Monday, March 30, by 9:00am.

Q. Are kids able to come to their school to access the eLearning if they don't have reliable internet at home?
A.   No! Students must access the eLearning Instructional Continuity Plan off campus. See response below for acquiring devices and internet access.

Q: How can my student continue receiving support in an online environment?
A: Teachers, Paraprofessionals, ESE Support, ESOL support, and additional support staff will be available during this time.

Q: What happens when my technology doesn't work?
A: Technology Services will remain available to assist with any technology-related issues. Students can access the eLearning Tech Assistance App in MySDMC SSO located at www. mysdmc.manateeschools.net.

Q: What happens if my student does not have technology at home? What if I have multiple students with one computer?
A: The School District of Manatee County has an option to loan district student laptops, one per family, for students who are in need of the appropriate technology. Check with Spectrum to determine eligibility for free Wi-Fi. For more information visit www.manateeschools.net/IT

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Q. Can more than one student do their learning at the same time in Schoology in one household?
A. Yes! Schoology is a cloud-based platform and more than one student in a household can access it. However, if each child does not have a digital device, parents may want to stagger their access times on the computer for "web-based" programs.

Q: Can my student access the platforms on tablets and phones? Can they use a Mac computer?
A: Yes. All district platforms MUST BE accessed through ClassLink/MySDMC SSO.
   https://launchpad.classlink.com/manateeschools

Instruction Plan

Q: What does instruction look like for primary students who may have limited tech experience?
A: Our goal is to provide a high-quality educational experience for all students. Blended learning (online and face-to-face) platforms are familiar to our students as they have been used since the beginning of the school year. Live instruction will remain age-appropriate and standards-aligned. Teachers and schools will create schedules for live instruction that can be shared with families. Lessons can be recorded and posted for later viewing. Schools may also consider having a virtual parent orientation or webinar on how to best help their student during this process. A professional will be available to support the student as they complete assigned activities.

Q: Will students who receive ESE and ESOL support still receive those services?
A: Services will be adjusted in this model. ESOL and ESE students on General Education standards will use the same prescribed general education platforms and meet the same expectations with applicable accommodations. ESE students following ACCESS point standards will also use Schoology and use teacher assigned on-line Unique Learning System (ULS) lessons/activities or ULS adapted packets.

Q: What is the plan for students that currently receive related services like OT, PT, VI, HH, etc.?
A: Non-Classroom specialty positions who currently provide these services will remain active during this process. The support will be modified to adjust to this new eLearning instructional model while ensuring the safety of the student and staff members. Related Services personnel will work with families to schedule virtual therapy sessions via the Schoology platform.

Q: What are the academic expectations for students?
A: Students are expected to log into Schoology and complete their required weekly instruction in each of their classes or subjects as they would in a traditional school environment. Communication with the teacher will be an essential component of being successful in an eLearning environment.

Parental Monitoring

Q: How do I monitor my student in this eLearning instructional model?
A: Student progress in Schoology is a critical part of success in an eLearning environment. Schoology provides both a student and parent method for monitoring student progress to ensure they are meeting their instruction and assignment requirements. Additionally, teachers are available for clarification or support on your students individual progress. *See Student Guide to using Schoology for Parents.*

Q: How can I check my student's grades and attendance?
A: Teachers will communicate with you regarding your student's grades and attendance. Overall grades and attendance will remain posted in the FOCUS system. However, students and parents can access teacher comments and assignment grade on student work in Schoology.

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Q: What happens if my student doesn't login or complete work?
A: Students who have not logged in or submitted work will be identified. Teachers and other school staff members will attempt to call students and families to re-engage them in the course or identify support needed. If a student does not work or login, it can directly impact their attendance, promotion and recorded grades for the duration of this model.

Q: What if my student's teacher becomes unavailable or doesn't respond?
A: During a teacher absence school staff will continue to ensure students receive instructional support. If a teacher is not absent but does not respond in a timely manner, families may reach out to the Principal for support.

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