

Dear FIT Academy Families,

As you can imagine, things are progressing fast as we prepare to welcome your students! We have had a chance to plan, review, and refine our distance learning plan and each day helps us get closer to a plan that will best serve our families. Please find below our distance learning plan. The deadline to register for Distance Learning is Tuesday August 18.

**Sincerely,
Claud Allaire
Executive Director**

FIT Academy Distance Learning Plan

Background

FIT Academy's return to school plan was developed in accordance with Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) recommendations and Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) requirements. It was developed in accordance with the *Safe Learning Plan* unveiled by the State of Minnesota on July 31, 2020 in response to the COVID pandemic. As the pandemic is evolving, so is the state plan and as a result, so is FIT Academy's plan. Our top priority is to ensure the health and safety of our students and staff while optimizing equitable opportunities for meaningful and sustainable instruction. The state plan also states as one of its top goals to "prioritize in-person learning, especially for younger learners". We however recognize the needs of families choosing distance learning and are committed to providing a strong program. To this end, we will hire a distance learning teacher to support distance learning at the elementary level.

Helpful Definitions

Synchronous Learning: Refers to instruction where the teacher and learners are interacting at the same time including in the classroom, via live video, or other forms of interaction. In this mode, students must follow a schedule in order to interact with the instructor and other learners.

Asynchronous Learning: Refers to instruction where direction is provided by the instructor to be reviewed by learners at a different time. In this mode, students and families are largely independent in their scheduling of instructional time.

Remote Learning: Remote learning describes participation from home for students who are in scenario 2 (hybrid) when their cohort is not on site.

Overview of Distance Learning Plan

The goal of our distance learning plan is to provide as much flexibility as we can to facilitate learning at home. For most families, this means a synchronous schedule supported by teachers. For some however, this will mean a more independent or asynchronous experience with instruction guided by parents. Our program will vary across grade levels to better serve the needs of learners, families, and optimize use of our resources. Here is a brief description of distance learning at each level:

Elementary Grades (K-3)

We recognize that the needs of each family in a distant learning situation are different and we are committed to a program that is flexible and adaptable. Parents may choose to follow the **synchronous** schedule guided by teachers or an **asynchronous** schedule guided by parents. The curriculum and assignments will be the same but we ask parents to notify teachers of their preference so that teachers can plan and support accordingly. It is important to note that in either scenario students will need adult supervision and guidance at home. The student schedule and curriculum will include daily language arts, math, and physical education as well as alternating day science, social studies, and French. Families will also be encouraged to attend onsite for physical education and art on Wednesdays.

Synchronous Schedule: Students following a synchronous schedule will have a regular schedule four days a week including daily live video instruction for Morning Meeting, Reading Workshop, and Math Workshop. Instruction in science, social studies, physical education, and French may also include video instruction. When not following along with live video lessons, students will work independently on their scheduled content using curriculum made available for parent pick-up or managed through the Seesaw app.

Asynchronous Learning: Families choosing asynchronous learning will access to curriculum and content via parent pick-up or electronically and determine their own learning schedule. They will also have access to the recordings of live teacher lessons. We also encourage parents choosing to follow an asynchronous schedule to meet with teachers on Wednesdays to coordinate instruction and access resources.

Content and Communication:

Teachers in grades K-3 will use the Seesaw platform to communicate and manage content electronically. Parents will also have the option to opt for paper pencil assignments to be picked-up and returned to school.

Grades 4 & 5

Grade 4 & 5 will follow the plan outlined above for K-3 but will include more live instruction by teachers who are onsite. Students will be presented with a schedule to follow but the recording and availability of live instruction will make it possible for families to adopt a more asynchronous schedule if they wish. Teachers will use the google classroom platform to communicate and manage content electronically.

Grades 6 through 11

Students in grades 6 through 11 will follow a regular 6 class per day schedule four days per week. For each of these classes, their teachers will host a live lesson using the Whereby app. Distance learners will sign-on at the beginning of each class for the introduction to the lesson and instructions for the class. Students will sign-off to work independently for the remainder of the class period when instructed to do so by the teacher before logging back on for their next class. Students will have access to support from the teacher synchronously during the class as determined by the teacher's availability, as well as asynchronously throughout the day. Teachers will record their live instruction and make it available for students to watch asynchronously. All assignments will be shared and managed electronically using google classroom.

Academic Support

Distance learners will have access to onsite support on Wednesdays. Teachers will work with the administration to address the needs of those who need additional support. Students with disabilities or other needs such as language support will continue to access supports outlined in their individual plans.

Technology Use and Support for Distance Learning

Students in distance learning will need a device and access to Wifi. Grades K-3 will need iPads while grades 4-11 will need a Chromebook or laptop. FIT Academy is committed to providing devices and Wifi to anyone in need. Please contact Katie Hanson at khanson@fitacademymn.org for additional support.

Wednesdays for Distance Learners

We invite distance learning families to make appointments to come in and meet with

teachers for academic support and will also schedule optional time for students to come in for physical education, art, and teacher support. We do plan on offering busing to support student attending those services on Wednesdays.

Meals and Daycare for Distance Learning Students

We will continue to facilitate lunches for students on the free and reduced lunch program for DISTANCE LEARNING students. In accordance with the governor's executive order, we will continue to provide onsite daycare for the children of Tier 1 essential workers on days when their children have no option to be onsite. This ONLY applies to distance learning on Wednesdays as that is the only day that families do not have an option to be onsite. Please contact Assistant Director Tamra Paschall at tpaschall@fitacademymn.org for additional information.

Health, Safety, and COVID19

While distance learners may not regularly be attending onsite, the following will be in place should DISTANCE LEARNING students attend on Wednesdays or choose to return onsite at a later time.

In accordance with the current governor's executive order, everyone at school or visiting school is required to wear a mask with exceptions made for those with developmental, medical, or behavioral health conditions. Teachers will have the option of a face shield or a mask. We will also have extra masks for students to use if they forget to bring one from home. We have developed in accordance with guidance from MDH protocols to follow in the case of a confirmed case of COVID or primary exposure. These protocols call for MDH to guide the school through quarantining and contact tracing. In the case of a confirmed case of COVID at school, we will communicate this to the school community and will communicate directly to those who may have been exposed while protecting the identity of individuals as much as possible. This process and recommendations would be guided by MDH.

In addition, we are putting the following measures in place to ensure maximum safety:

- Daily passive screening each day by parents. Please keep children home if they are ill or have a fever and notify the school immediately.
- Upon arrival, students will immediately go to assigned meeting places in the morning
- Some hallways will be designated and labeled as "one way"
- Hallways that remain two-way will have a dividing barrier for opposing traffic
- Students will stay with their group or class at all times, minimizing the mixing of groups

- We will have a cleaning schedule to ensure the building is sanitized in the morning and classrooms and spaces are sanitized when a group leaves and another group might enter the same space
- Students in grades 4-11 will only use lockers in the morning and end of the day. They will use backpacks throughout the day for their books and materials
- Hand sanitizer will be available in all rooms
- Students are not to use water fountains and should bring a water bottle from home
- We have installed foot devices to open bathroom doors
- All staff and students will be required to wear a mask or faceshield unless excuse by a qualified professional