

Maintaining Connections with Elementary Students

The West Chester Area School District recognizes that during this school closure and quarantine, it's important and beneficial to maintain relationships and connections established with our students. At the same time, we have to adhere to privacy concerns.

The Administrative team is requesting that teachers send *at least one video per day featuring a WCASD elementary classroom teacher teaching a lesson or connecting with students (such as a story time, activity, etc.)*.

- You are welcome to post/send your students a brief video of you teaching a math lesson as well an ELA lesson;
- You can send just one video for math and none for ELA (or vice versa);
- You can also partner with grade-level team members so that you cover the math video and your team member covers the ELA video (or vice versa.) At this point in the school year all students have familiarity with all teachers in their school's grade, so this will still be a familiar face.

What about Zoom?

Because of privacy concerns raised this week, **we will not be able to record any Zoom sessions in which students are shown or heard.** So, if you are *teaching* in Zoom, and want to record the session, you'll need to mute student video and audio. You're welcome to use Zoom for brief class meetings, story times, etc., **with** student participation, **as long as you are not recording them.** You're welcome to vary the times of day for these, as well. (Some parents may have more ability to help their younger children access Zoom at less traditional times of the day – such as in the evening, etc., when they aren't working. Do what works for your schedule and what's manageable for you.)

How else can I record and post a video lesson?

There are a variety of other tools available. [Please click here to review the options on the Professional Development at Your Fingertips page.](#) Please reach out to your Instructional Technology Coordinator – [Jenni Southmayd](#), [Mary Beth Clifton](#), or [Chris Cromwell](#) if you have any questions.

Why is it important to offer recorded instruction instead of live instruction?

We know from feedback from parents that it's just not possible for many parents to break away from their own work to help younger children get online with Zoom, etc. at a certain time of day. Our goal is to make *instruction* accessible to as many families as possible.

Why is it important to offer video instruction?

We firmly believe that our teachers will do the best job teaching to their class, and the only way we can deliver that right now is by using video. You know your students, and they know your teaching style. We also believe it's important for students to see their own teacher each day if possible, if only for a few moments to introduce a concept, read a story, or say hello. They've built valuable relationships with their teachers and we want to try to continue that connection.

If you have questions, please reach out to your principal. Thank you!