



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 2, 2020

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OTTAWA AREA ISD RELEASES FRAMEWORK FOR REMOTE LEARNING DURING EXTENDED SCHOOL CLOSURE

Holland, MI- Anticipating the potential for Governor Whitmer’s Executive Order (2020-35) to include extending school closure through the end of the 2019-2020 school year, Ottawa Area ISD assembled a Remote Learning Taskforce to develop a long-term plan to deliver alternative modes of instruction other than in-person for students.

Today, the task force announced a framework has been designed by educators in general, special, career/technical, and early childhood education to provide guidance around how a district, school, or program might think through developing a Remote Learning system for students and families. It is intended to guide thinking, reflection, and planning, rather than dictate what will work best for schools and their communities.

“Schools know their students and families best and what will work (and not work) in their particular context,” said Dr. Kyle Mayer, assistant superintendent for instructional services for Ottawa Area ISD. “We collaboratively designed this framework to create a system of learning that helps provide stability and security for our students and families in these unparalleled times.”

The Framework is intended to provide a wholistic approach to teaching and learning. There are various ways schools can utilize the Remote Learning Framework including as a reflection guide for planning a Remote Learning system, as a reminder of what to keep in mind as educators work with students and families in a Remote Learning setting, etc. Schools are encouraged to adapt and customize the Framework as they develop their Continuity of Learning and COVID-19 Response Plans.

“The Remote Learning Framework focuses first, and foremost, on foundational beliefs and relationships,” Mayer said.

“We know that disruptions in routines can be difficult on children and families so we are focusing on intentionally maintaining relationships with students and families and providing them with supports and resources they might need so students are better prepared to learn. We believe it’s important to ensure all students from grades Pre-K through adults that we serve are physically, emotionally, and socially well and have strong family supports so that each student develops to their own potential,” Mayer added.

At the very foundation of the Framework, beliefs and mindsets include:

- HAVE EMPATHY FOR THE LOSS OF “NORMALCY”
- WE WILL DO ALL WE CAN TO ENGAGE ALL STUDENTS
- REMOTE LEARNING IS NOT THE SAME AS FACE-TO-FACE
- REMOTE LEARNING TAKES DIFFERENT SKILLS

While students engage in the learning of new content, this Framework encourages teachers to continuously reflect on how they are intentionally maintaining relationships with students and families and providing them with supports and resources as needed.

After that foundation and relationships have been established, educators can assess the supports needed to engage in learning, establish new routines with supplemental learning, and then re-engage with new learning built upon what students already know and incorporating new teaching tools and structures.

Ottawa Area ISD Superintendent Pete Haines said, “While students are away from school and isolated from normal activities, educational continuity is important and can lend a sense of calm and stability. We are committed to continuing to offer learning opportunities for students as well as guidance for parents on what they can do to help their child progress. We know there is not a ‘one size fits all’ approach to education.”

The [OAISD Remote Learning Framework](#), along with other school-related resources for educators and families may be accessed online at oaisd.org/remoteteaching

Executive order 2020-35 issued April 2 suspends in-person K-12 instruction for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year.

Ottawa Area School Leaders Position Statement on Remote Learning:

School leaders in the Ottawa Area are sensitive to the many challenges facing our students, our staff, our families and our communities during this time of uncertainty. While students are away from school and isolated from normal activities, we believe that educational continuity is important and can lend a sense of calm and stability. We are committed to continuing to offer learning opportunities for students as well as guidance for parents on what they can do to help their child(ren) progress. While we know that we may not be able provide the level of personalized education that each student would normally receive, we intend to provide as much as we can through the channels that are available to us. This is a moral imperative which we hope will be supported politically and financially, but regardless of which, we intend to carry out in good faith.

About Ottawa Area ISD:

Ottawa Area Intermediate School District works collaboratively with schools and communities to meet the educational needs of students of all ages in the Ottawa area. By pooling resources and providing services regionally, Ottawa Area ISD provides important programs and services to local K-12 school districts, charter, parochial and private schools and adults in the most cost-effective ways possible. To learn more about Ottawa Area ISD visit www.oaisd.org