
Home Instruction (Remote Learning) Instructions- March 16, 2020

Dear Center School Parents & Guardians:

Please read the following carefully, as it is lengthy but full of much needed information...

Starting Tuesday, March 17, 2020, The Center School staff will begin holding remote learning (home instruction) classes. Our planning and preparing phase of this transition began Friday March 6 and required much work to not only create class lessons for the next three weeks, but in a format for on-line & remote learning. Staff needed to obtain the correct technological equipment and software, receive training on its use, create virtual classrooms for every class and student, upload lesson plans and assignments, create 3 weeks of lessons with distance learning involved, and practice with their students. This all while still conducting normal school classes with their students up to today Monday, March 16. Many, many hours of work went into this by the staff, all of whom (like most teachers in K-12 schools) have had little or no experience conducting remote learning on such a grand scale for such a lengthy period of time. Their intense dedication to formulating their “home instruction” plans with the special needs our students receive on a daily basis is truly a testament to their character and dedication to their craft.

As per the NJDOE guidelines schools are guided by state law for “home instruction, found in **N.J.A.C. 6A:16-10.1 - Home or out-of-school instruction due to a temporary or chronic health condition.** Among other components, subsection (d) of 6A:16-10.1 requires: “During all periods of instruction delivered in a student’s home, the student’s parent or other adult who has been designated by the parent shall be present.”

State and local officials, as well as school administrations understand that this unprecedented event over the next several weeks is stressful and creating hardships for many for various reasons. However, requiring an adult assist or just being present during the “home instruction” will be important to ensure the receiving portion of this program is effective.

To assist you in your part, we have attached information for you, or your designated adult who will be present, to understand what your child will be doing. The information will consist of their daily schedule for the on-line portion of the “home instruction” with their teachers, Google Classroom instructions, contact information for school administrators for questions and concerns, and weekly updates on the current academic situation. All of this information will also be posted on our school website for easy access. Of course, all of our teachers and related services staff will still be available by email (as usual) for school related communications as usual.

How long will “home instruction” last?

We have made plans to conduct “home instruction” for three weeks, starting Tuesday March 17 and ending Friday April 3. Starting Monday April 6 -Monday April 13 we are on our regularly scheduled “Spring Break Recess” during which there will not be any “home instruction.” If schools are directed to remain closed after that date (April 13) we will continue “home instruction” services as long as we are mandated to do so.

How do I find information for online instruction?

Information for Google Classroom will be available on the school’s website.

How does attendance work?

Attendance will be recorded as normal. Students should be attending the online portion of their classes according to their school class schedules. Teachers will be taking attendance for each class to document the required “home instruction” services. Students need to log in to each of their classes via Google Classroom for teachers to take attendance and receive instruction. If a student is not present for their online class, they will be marked absent by the teacher in Genesis from that class for that day.

What if my child has technical issues?

Technical support will be provided by contacting techsupport@center.school

Who do I contact if I have questions or concerns about “home instruction?”

Both the Director and Principal will be available to answer questions throughout this period via email and cell. Their contact information will be on the school website.

What about updates?

There will be updates to the current health related school closing posted on the school website. Parents and guardians will also be updated weekly on Friday via the Principal’s Newsletter with weekly progress and updates.

What about my child’s related services?

All OT, counseling, and Speech/Language services will continue to be delivered to your child according to their regular schedule on our 6-day cycle. These services will be delivered at specific times and dates after students attend their morning on-line classes.

What about IEP meetings?

All scheduled IEP meetings, evaluation meetings, re-evaluation meetings, etc. will be held via Google Meet with all stakeholders if they are available. Any meetings which need to be rescheduled will be so as soon as possible.

Again, I want to ask you to refer to our school’s website for all school related information, updates, and further questions and instructions during this period of closure. We are here to assist you and your child and to continue to provide the services we provide here at The Center School.

Sincerely,



Ronald P. Rinaldi, Ed.D.
Principal