



# ACADEMICS COMMITTEE

**COMMITTEE CHARGE: PROVIDE A RIGOROUS ACADEMIC PROGRAM TO ENSURE CONTINUITY OF LEARNING; CREATE A STRONGER DISTANCE LEARNING EXPERIENCE TO START 2020-21 AND TO PREPARE FOR THE POSSIBILITY OF ALL-REMOTE LEARNING; AND EXAMINE THE NEEDS FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER STEPS TO SUPPORT OUR TEACHERS.**

## CONTINUITY OF LEARNING

**KENILWORTH WILL MEET THE CHALLENGE OF PROVIDING A RIGOROUS ACADEMIC PROGRAM THAT CONTINUES THE STANDARDS WE STRIVE FOR WHEN SCHOOLS OPERATE ON THE TYPICAL, IN-PERSON BASIS. THIS IS ONE OF THE CORE VALUES THAT ANCHORED KENILWORTH’S REOPENING PLAN.**

- Structure in-person learning to the greatest extent possible within social distancing guidelines and our buildings’ capacities. At Harding, that will mean a five-day modified schedule. At Brearley, students will participate in a combination of in-person and distance learning.
- Build a program for students who choose the full-remote learning option. Those students will have some live instruction, delivered via internet, along with other [synchronous and asynchronous](#) learning opportunities. The full-remote plan will rely on the expertise of our district’s leaders, curriculum and instruction team, teachers, and teachers union leadership.
- Adjust Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) as necessary for students who are identified as having special needs.
- Use a suite of tools, including NWEA MAP and internal assessments, to measure learning growth and potential loss during the Spring and Summer, which will help the district better understand how to plan for 2020-21 instruction.
- Recognize the potentially increased need for supplemental and remedial instruction.

**SYNCHRONOUS LEARNING = TEACHERS AND STUDENTS USE VIDEO-CONFERRING TO “MEET” ONLINE AT SCHEDULED TIMES.**

**ASYNCHRONOUS LEARNING = STUDENTS OPERATE MORE INDEPENDENTLY TO COMPLETE ASSIGNMENTS OR CONNECT WITH SMALL GROUPS OF PEERS.**

## STRONGER DISTANCE LEARNING

**PREPARING FOR FALL 2020 IS A SHORT-TERM APPROACH; KENILWORTH WILL ALSO LOOK AT A POTENTIALLY LONGER-RANGE APPROACH TO EDUCATING STUDENTS ENTIRELY THROUGH DISTANCE LEARNING.**

- Learn from the Spring 2020 experience with distance learning. Our survey showed that Flexible Fridays, check-ins, live instruction sessions, and online learning platforms were valuable components.
- Leverage online platforms such as Seesaw for grades K-2 and Google Classroom for grades 3-12 to enable ongoing communication between teachers, families and students. Use other technology tools including Study Island, Think Central, Flipgrid, Kami, Quizizz, and Google Apps for Education.

- Hire a new technology facilitator to make distance learning initiatives as user-friendly and effective as possible for both students and staff, and to investigate new tools to help meet that goal.
- Equip all students in grades 7-12 with take-home Chromebooks to ensure technology equity and support 21st Century teaching and learning.
- Activate these Instructional Models to support students in grades 7-12 while they learn from home:
  - Live-streaming lessons (camera-in-classroom)
  - Flipped classroom (with live student interfacing between school and home)
  - Live mini-lesson; Zoom discussion/application; practice/extension activity
- Be flexible and nimble in case schools must pivot to a 100% remote learning mode for either a short or extended period of time with very little notice.
- Create a Distance Learning Guidebook to underpin consistency and structure in case the district must return to full-remote learning. The guidebook will reflect lessons learned from Spring 2020.
- Use this guidebook in the event that Kenilworth is required to pivot to a full-remote learning experience, and be ready to embed more live instruction, structured office hours, and additional district, teacher, student and parent responsibilities.

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## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER SUPPORT**

**TEACHERS HAVE ALREADY SHOWN THEIR DETERMINATION AND ABILITY TO KEEP OUR EDUCATION PROGRAM RUNNING, AND KENILWORTH WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES AND OTHER MEANS OF SUPPORTING THEIR ROLES AS ACADEMIC LEADERS.**

- Respond to staff survey results by incorporating the use of online learning platforms in Kenilworth's plan for continuity of learning.
- Provide teachers with ongoing professional learning both in-person and online.
- Embed professional development opportunities by drawing on the skills and experiences of the district's technology facilitator, teacher leaders, and Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment Department.
- Continue to advance the district's future-ready practices and stay abreast of the latest ideas and tools in the areas of curriculum, instruction and assessment. This commitment is an essential element of support for our faculty.