



Learn Today. Lead Tomorrow.

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ORA Launches Flexible Remote Learning Program from March 16, 2020 – April 3, 2020

March 13, 2020

Dear Old Redford Academy Families,

Based on the growing health concerns with the coronavirus (COVID-19), Governor Whitmer has ordered the closing of all Michigan K-12 schools from March 16, 2020 – April 5, 2020. While there are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 at ORA, all buildings will remain closed. In response to this closure, ORA will provide flexible learning days to scholars to ensure that instruction continues during this time.

Flexible Learning Days

- The Flexible Learning Program will ensure that instruction continues remotely during the school closure. This also helps preserve instructional time by providing teachers with the opportunity to provide instruction remotely. In turn, scholars have the ability to communicate with teachers during the building closure.
- The Academy will offer scholars full access to interactive instructional materials, blended learning, and virtual instruction provided by their teacher. Much of the content is accessible using a cell phone.
- Teachers will provide interactive sessions with scholars three times a week. In addition, teachers will share assignments and hold daily office hours for scholars and/or parents. The goal of the interactive learning day is to ensure there is no disruption or lapse in the instructional day.
- All scholars and instructional staff are expected to participate in the flexible learning day. Building and district administrators as well as support staff including counselors and deans will also be available to scholars and families. Scholars should check their school email regularly from Monday – Friday for instructions and updates. Flexible learning will continue until April 3, 2020.

Flexible learning materials, teacher schedules, instructions, and district announcements are available to scholars and families beginning on Monday, March 16, 2020 at this site:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Jy7XQ5IOetxF1B6I2ZgdGnmfW0GU4i3k?usp=sharing>

While instructional content will be available online, families with limited access to technology *may pick up work packets with important project-based tasks from Monday, March 16, 2020 – Tuesday, March 17, 2020 from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm at the entrance of the ORA elementary, middle, or high school.* These items will be left near the entrance of each building. Unfortunately, we are unable to allow access to the building.

Families are also encouraged to contact building administration or the District Parent Liaison, Severa Smith at sesmith@oldredford.org if they do not have access to technology at home (i.e. cell phone, computer, or iPad). While many of the K4-8th grade virtual applications are accessible on a cell phone, an iPad or computer may be needed to access particular high school blending learning websites.

For families in need of internet access, Comcast is currently offering two months of free service to individuals who meet particular requirements. Additional information is available here: <https://www.wxyz.com/news/national/coronavirus/comcast-offering-internet-essentials-package-free-for-60-months-during-coronavirus-outbreak>

Spring Break

Currently, ORA’s spring break is scheduled from April 6 – April 10, 2020. However, additional guidance from the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) to public schools will determine whether this break will need to be changed or if it can remain as planned. Additional information on this topic will be provided as it becomes available.

Building Cleaning

While the Academy currently has a facilities department that regularly cleans and disinfects all buildings daily, an outside company will be used to provide an additional deep cleaning and disinfecting process for all buildings during the closure.

Academy Events

All district practices, events, and activities for scholars and families have been cancelled. Field trips are also canceled.

Testing

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is aware of the potential disruption to the spring testing window. Additional information on this topic will be provided as it becomes available.

We appreciate your support during this challenging time.

Sabrina Claude McGahee, Ed.D.
Superintendent