



# MARTINSVILLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Creating Responsible, Effective Adults Through Education

Families,

Martinsville ISD is committed to providing high-quality instruction to all students, regardless of instructional setting. Martinsville ISD is equally committed to providing a safe environment in which to learn and work. To that end, this communication serves to provide information regarding the instructional protocols that Martinsville ISD will use to safely re-engage students and employees in the 2020-2021 school year. This information is based on current constraints and considerations related to the COVID-19 pandemic and may be updated as additional guidance is provided.

No guidance can anticipate every unique situation that might result from COVID-19. As a result, Martinsville ISD will continue to consult available guidance through governmental agencies and other information deemed relevant to monitor the situation and will update these plans, as needed. The District will comply with applicable federal and state employment and disability laws, workplace safety standards, and accessibility standards to address individual needs.

For the 2020-2021 school year, per the regulations from the Texas Education Agency, Martinsville ISD will offer all students in grades Pre-K-12 the option of either distance instruction or face-to-face instruction. MISD asks parents to inform us of their preferred method of instruction in an online form scheduled to go out **Friday, July 31<sup>st</sup>** that will be due on **Monday, August 11<sup>th</sup>**. Families must complete and submit a form for each student. Any student whose parent selects the distance learning model will remain in that setting for a minimum of a six-week period.

**Remote Instruction** The key to successful remote instruction will be our commitment to providing our remote learners with a strong instructional experience that provides the same expectations and experiences as students in the classroom.

- Remote instruction will begin on August 24th and will follow all [TEA requirements for remote instruction](#).
- In accordance with TEA requirements, instruction for remote learners will be facilitated by Martinsville ISD teachers.
- If students in grades pre-kindergarten through second grade participate in remote instruction, a higher degree of parental/care-giver support will be necessary.
- The remote instruction will be asynchronous. This model supports regular teacher-student engagement opportunities, and required **DAILY** check-ins/progress for attendance purposes and daily assignments.

- Teachers will teach remote instruction students from their classrooms or other assigned facilities.
  - Remote Learning will utilize Schoology/Powerschool and will follow the **same grading guidelines as face-to-face learning**.
  - Students will have access to online resources, textbooks, and materials through their Martinsville ISD Schoology account.
  - Instruction in both the remote and face-to-face settings will address the same Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS).
  - Student expectations for remote instruction will include:
    - Designating a home work space that is free from distractions;
    - Participating in **DAILY** virtual check-ins/class meetings;
    - Dressing appropriately when participating in virtual check-ins/class meetings;
    - Showing their faces on the screen when engaging in virtual check-ins/class meetings;
    - Showing proof of participation in daily virtual instruction by satisfactorily completing assigned assignments to demonstrate evidence of student learning ie. video, picture, or activities submitted as lessons and/or completing assignments; and
    - Communicating with the teacher when there is a need for additional assistance, tutoring, etc.
  - **It is important that parents and students understand that remote attendance is based on DAILY engagement, not solely the completion of assignments.** State law TEC §25.092 and policy FEC (LOCAL) and (LEGAL) still require students to attend at least 90% of their classes to receive credit and be promoted. Remote attendance will count in the same manner as on-campus (face-to-face) attendance in satisfying this requirement.
- If you have additional questions regarding remote instruction, please contact campus administration.

**See FAQs for more information.**

I understand and agree to the above conditions

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## **VIRTUAL AT-HOME LEARNING: Asynchronous Instruction- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

**Will this 2020-2021 virtual learning look any different from this past spring?**

*Yes, it will be totally different.* This past spring, Texas schools were given the flexibility to offer instructional continuity at a lower level of rigor to students while they learned from home. This school year will be different in that teachers will be instructing at the level of rigor required by the state. Students who select virtual at-home instruction will be **required** to participate in class daily. It will be a **full course load** of instruction, and assignments will be very comparable to in-school learning.

**Will students participating in virtual at-home asynchronous learning receive live, teacher-led instruction for the full length of a school day?**

No. A structured schedule will be provided to students indicating required participation in asynchronous instruction/learning each day. The schedule will include independent learning activities and/or daily engagement with the teachers. The schedule may vary by grade, course, or student. A caregiver will need to be available to support younger students in navigating the daily schedule and assisting with the learning as needed. It is important to note that **time management, consistency, and dedication** will be critical to student success. Students, teachers, and parents should utilize frequent communication regarding daily schedules and assignments to ensure that students are progressing towards mastery of the learning outcomes.

**What will virtual at-home instruction look like?**

Instruction will depend on the grade level and the course; however, an example could be that a student watches a pre-recorded video of the math lesson that teaches the concept for the day. The detailed video will provide instruction needed for the student to complete an assignment and/or an assessment in Schoology. The student's log-in and successful completion of the assignment will show they were engaged in the lesson.

**Will there be attendance requirements?**

Yes, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) will require daily attendance and participation in virtual at-home learning. Students will be required to participate daily and traditional attendance rules will be reinforced.

To clarify, a student will not be allowed to complete all of their work on Monday and choose not to engage Tuesday-Friday. This would result in 4 absences for the week. (based on TEA guidelines)

### **What qualifies as being present?**

Students will be counted “Present-Remote Asynchronous” if:

1. They showed progress in the Learning Management System (LMS)-- Schoology or Schoology, or
2. They showed progress from teacher/student interactions that day, or
3. They successfully completed their assignment that day.

### **What happens if my child does not log into Schoology or participate in their instruction and complete their assignment(s) for the day?**

Your child will be counted absent if they do not comply with the virtual at-home learning guidelines stated in the previous answers.

*Note: The 90% rule applies to all absences, including excused absences. If the student does not attend 90% of their days of class, then the student does not receive credit for the course (except as exempted by the attendance committee). Also, truancy under the Texas Education Code will apply with the parent being subject to prosecution and the student being referred to truancy court if the student is absent 10 or more days or parts of days within a six month period. (Texas Education Code 25.095) Unexcused absences do not include absences that are excused by state law and local school district policy.*

### **How do I choose At-Home/Virtual Learning?**

MISD will send out an application form for those who wish to choose virtual at-home learning. This will be the learning setting for that student for the duration of a 6-week progress reporting period.

### **I have WiFi/internet at our home, but we do not have a device for our student(s). Will the district provide a device?**

The district has plans to provide a device for student use.

### **What if I change my mind and want my student to attend traditional in-person learning on campus?**

Due to scheduling complications, students will be enrolled in the same setting for a full 6-week grading period. You will need to contact the campus registrar the Monday prior to the last week of the 6 week reporting period to change from virtual at-home learning to traditional in-person learning the following 6-weeks.

**When will I need to make this commitment?**

A commitment application form will be sent to you which will be due Wednesday, August 11th by 8:00 a.m. to allow the district to finalize all instructional plans.

**Will students participating in virtual at-home learning need to purchase school supplies for the new year?**

Families will need the typical supplies in order to complete some of the assignments. If a child starts virtual then moves to face to face , the supplies will need to be brought to the school for use.

**What online learning management system will be used to support elementary (PK-2) students?**

The benefit of an online learning management system is to streamline all digital tools and content for a more connected learning experience for students. The district has identified Schoology as the tool to support a consistent learning management system for elementary students in grades PreK-2 for the district. Students in these grade levels will not need a personal email account to be able to access this management system.

**What online learning management system will be used to support secondary students (3-12)?**

The benefit of an online learning management system is to streamline all digital tools and content for a more connected learning experience for students. Students in these grades are able to access communication with their teacher and log-in to the Schoology learning platform. Students in grades 3-12 in both In-Person and At-Home Learning will utilize the current learning management system Schoology. Certain high school courses related to college prep may use the platform designated by the contracted college to complete their course.

**How will students’ progress be reported?**

Overall progress on learning outcomes will be communicated in a traditional format using number grades. Assignments and grades will be entered into the Gradebook, which can be accessed at home through the Parent Portal.

**Will courses taken virtually be included in GPA calculations and class rank for high school students?**

Yes, courses taken by students participating in virtual at-home learning will be included in calculating GPA and class rank in accordance with local policy.

**Will STAAR/EOC be administered in 2020-2021?**

Yes. Texas Education Agency (TEA) has indicated that STAAR and EOC testing will occur during the 2020-2021 school year in compliance with state and federal legislation.

**Are immunizations required for students enrolled in virtual at-home learning?**

Yes, at this time the Texas Department of State Health Services has not waived any vaccine requirements for students.

**Will my child have virtual access to their campus nurse and counselor during the school day if we choose remote learning?**

Yes, parents and students may contact the school nurse or counselor by phone or email during school hours.

**How will virtual at-home learning courses be managed and staffed?**

Virtual at-home learning will be provided by the same teachers that would provide instruction for in-person classes.

**Will students identified as ESL, Dyslexic and/or Gifted and Talented receive services if we choose virtual at-home learning?**

Yes, these students will receive services. Students that qualify for these services or programs will be contacted to discuss needs and services that can be provided on an individual basis.

**Will students receiving Special Education or 504 be eligible for virtual at-home learning?**

Yes, all students at MISD will have the opportunity to choose virtual at-home learning. ARD meetings and 504 meetings will be scheduled on a case-by-case basis and in compliance with mandates. Students that qualify for these services or programs will be contacted to discuss needs and services that can be provided on an individual basis.

**Can students who choose virtual at-home learning still come to school for extracurricular activities?**

No. In order for students to participate in extracurricular activities, they must be enrolled in traditional in-person learning.

**Will all courses be offered?**

All core courses will be offered. There will be some elective courses that will not be able to be offered virtually due to the hands-on nature of the course, such as welding and culinary.

**Will dual credit be offered and what will it look like?**

Dual credit will be offered. Students who are planning to take a dual credit course will need to contact the school counselor, for more information about how to register for these courses.