THE LEXINGTON SCHOOL & CENTER FOR THE DEAF

PLAN FOR CONTINUITY OF INSTRUCTION & PUPIL PERSONNEL SERVICES: SCHOOL REOPENING PREPARATION & TELE-SERVICES

Lexington School & Center for the Deaf officially launched our virtual learning plan on March 23, 2020 after the initial closure due to COVID-19. We shall continue to revise and use this Lexington School Continuity of Instruction Plan for future closures. The Lexington School for the Deaf is committed to providing programs and services consistent with students’ Individualized Education Program (IEP). During our extended school closure, we shall continue to provide instruction at home through e-learning access and materials. Online resources are available through Schoology.

While a full educational experience can be a challenge to provide through remote learning plans, the dedicated Lexington School Faculty and Staff are working in collaboration with each other and our families to maintain our home-to-school connection.

COMMUNICATION AND ACTIVITIES FOR SCHOOL CLOSING DUE TO COVID-19

School Reopening Preparation

School Faculty and Staff meetings will be held

- Updates on COVID-19 will be provided.
- Teachers and Related Service Providers will be required to also have plans in place for possible school closure to ensure continuity of instruction for students.

From August 8-August 14, 2020, a schedule has been made for staff from all school departments (Preschool, Elementary, Middle School, High School, Special Needs, Foreign Language Transition Class, Speech Language Pathology and Positive Behavioral Intervention Supports) to enter the building on a staggered basis to go to their classroom to prepare for the fall 2020-2021 school year.

The school administration team will meet on August 31st and September 1st to prepare for the 2020-2021 school year. This will include both discussions on any final preparations as well as preparing the building physically (displaying signage) for re-entry.

Schoology

Schoology contains links to websites that can easily be utilized at home when teachers and related service providers assign lessons and activities. Beyond classroom groups, it also allows groups for parents and guardians (“Lexington Families”) where we are able to share resources to support the family’s journey, communication at home, and mental and emotional health, while also highlighting supplemental resources/activities.
Communication with Families

Schoology and the Lexington Website will continue to be utilized to send information through online platforms, and One Call Now provided information via phone, text, and e-mail to all families.

We will continue to share information regarding updates on the coronavirus from NYC Department of Mental Health and Hygiene, and on the status of events/meetings.

Importance of Home-To-School Connection

Having regular interactions with our students and families is important during this time to provide continuity of instruction. The following are methods of communication we are utilizing to provide instruction, services and support.

As we continue to provide virtual learning, Schoology is our main access to all information. Schoology itself has its own Virtual Learning Assistance where staff can get technology support.

The bullet points below describe remote learning activities and actions we are taking and technologies we are using. This listing will be up-dated, as new items and modifications arise.

- Face-Time, Marco Polo, Zoom, Seesaw, YouTube, Kahoot, Flipgrid, Loom (it’s a video recording while showing a presentation such as a Math formula problem) are just some of the on-line platforms we are using to reach students and families.
- CSD STEM Virtual Learning (Teacher’s Toolkit focused webinar)
- HS Science Fair took place! The students gave their presentations to the judges using PowerPoint through Zoom conference calls.
- Physical Education Teachers are modeling the workouts via Schoology and students copy the modeling and show the video on Schoology.
- Teachers continue to contact parents with guidance and advice on activities.
- Speech Language Therapy staff continues to work with the family via video call, voice call or email.
- The HS Student Council launched a celebration of SPIRIT WEEK-Virtual Learning where staff and students post their outfits daily on Schoology.
- E-mail (MS/HS)
- Schoology (MS/HS)
- Videophone Conversations (All students)
- Physical Hard Copy Packets
- Phone calls to parents/families for support and check-ins.
- Weekly Zoom conferences with our support team are open to parents and guardians looking for additional support and connection.
Communication between Faculty & Staff and School Administrators

The School Administrators communicate via texting, emailing, Face-Timing and GoToMeeting and we continue to monitor the Schoology comments. The school administrators shall keep in touch with the Faculty & Staff via Schoology and Zoom meetings.

- E-mail
- Website
- GoToMeeting
- Phone Conferences
- Zoom
- Facetime
- Marco Polo

Tracking Communications

At the end of each week, Lexington Faculty & Staff e-mail School Administrators a summary of communications and instruction they have had with their students.

If Faculty & Staff have any concerns regarding a student, they are to notify School Administrators immediately.

If Faculty & Staff are not able to communicate with a student or their family and/or they have not received any communication with a student or family member, they are to notify School Administrators.

Cyber Safety

Due to the expanded usage of online resources, there is the increased potential for misuse of electronic communication and/or cyberbullying. Parents and students are aware that the Lexington School Internet Acceptable Usage Policy and DASA still apply.

- PBIS TEAM is focusing on DASA and continues to hold regular weekly meetings.
- If bullying or harassment is suspected while students are participating in remote learning, staff are to notify Carlos Aponte-Salcedo, PBIS Coordinator.

Mental Health

PBIS and PPS Staff are assisting our students and families who feel anxious regarding the COVID-19 outbreak by providing valid information to assist in dispelling rumors and misunderstandings. We will also continue
to provide resources that address mental health needs of students during an infectious disease outbreak, in addition to utilizing our school’s mental health professionals.

Lexington’s Family Liaison will host family support groups via Zoom. ASL/English and English/Spanish interpreters are provided if/when needed.

The School Mental Health Team will work collaboratively with the Outpatient Mental Health Clinic. Referrals can be easily made for school family members, staff, and the Deaf community at large. The psychiatrist continues to remotely see Lexington students and all patients in the Deaf community. Please feel free to reach out, always confidentially, to (718) 340-3143 or e-mail, confidentially, to: mentalhealth@lexnc.org

**Student Health Services**

Student Health Services continues to provide health support to students and families with factual and official information, health counseling and follow-ups. Collaboration with different departments to address current and future issues are ongoing. The nurse is working on Return to School Recovery plan adhering to the NYS and CDC guidelines. Students/families and staff may reach out to the nurse for support and resources at any time.

**Disruptions in a Student’s Consistency of Care**

For any concerns regarding a student receiving consistency of care (e.g. meals, medical), faculty and staff should notify the School Principal and Director of PPS.

**Interpreting and Translation Professional Services**

Hispanic Resource Team provides interpreting and translation services.

- For Spanish speaking families, our HRT team can be utilized.
- For families who speak languages other than English or Spanish, professional interpreters from our call-in service will be utilized.