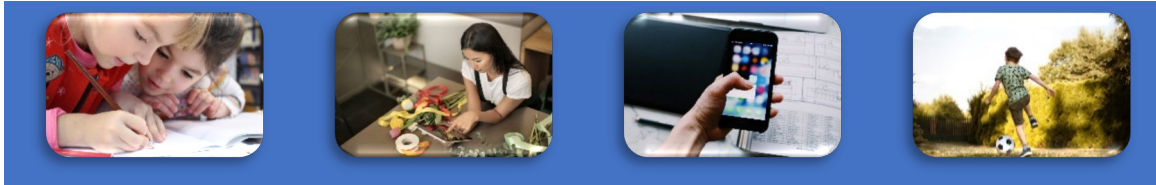




Living Sky School Division No. 202
Growth Without Limits, Learning For All

Moving Instruction Online: A Guide for Teachers

ASSESS THE NEW LANDSCAPE



Factors to think about:

- Students and their caregivers have choices as to whether they participate in ongoing learning through their schools. While difficult, we must honour their choices, without pressure or coercion.
- Although a challenge, when on-site school resumes, teachers will need to be prepared to work with students who may be behind and missing some key outcomes. Work and planning can be done over the next while as to how teachers might do this.
- Some parents working in essential services or are continuing their jobs at home. This could affect the availability of supervision or technology within households.
- While many of our students have access to technology, there are families who do not have cellular data, wi-fi, or devices that can handle high bandwidth presentations. Some families might best be reached by an email, or even a phone call. We may have to look at even more creative possibilities to reach out to everyone.
- Simply replicating existing school days and schedules would be impossible: picture a family with 3 students and one device who have multiple teachers trying to schedule their “classes” with them in real time, all day long; Picture the bandwidth demands within the province if every teacher tried to teach their classes via videoconference at once!
- Many LSKY teachers will feel overwhelmed if they are expected to carry on teaching exactly as before, but virtually

ADAPT INSTRUCTION:

Key Considerations

Please keep in mind:

- All caregivers are educators
- The aim is to support ongoing learning at home (which does not mean covering all curriculum outcomes or students sitting for 5 hours a day 'doing school'.)
- Focus areas for activities and resources are: **Literacy, Numeracy, Wellness (physical, emotional, spiritual, intellectual), Diverse Learners**
- Promoting critical & creative thinking, conversations, and relationships are key
- Follow student's interests and passions

Connection - The first task will be to ensure that you can connect with your families and determine their learning intentions and means of interaction.

Agility and Creativity- We are all in uncharted territory. Be prepared to adapt to the unexpected and to share your challenges and successes. More than ever, we will need to learn from one another.



TRANSFORM TEACHING

The problem with conversion [trying to move current teaching practices online without adaptation] is that we tend to view things with a deficit mindset. In other words, we ask, "Can I still do this even when we're not physically there?" Then, we reduce the amount of activities we can do as a result. It's a bit like file conversions that get smaller or more compressed over time.

A better option is transformation. With transformation, we can ask, "What does it mean to do things differently? What are the new options that were previously unavailable?"

When it comes to distance learning, this often means going beyond the content delivery method and encouraging things like voice, choice, creativity, and even play.

From John Spencer, "Taking Distance Learning Away from the Screen"
<http://www.spencerauthor.com/distance-screentime/>

TRANSFORM TEACHING

Instead of creating tech-driven lessons, we are focused on the following:

- *Inquiry and Curiosity*
- *Critical thinking*
- *Creativity*
- *Voice and Choice*
- *Empathy and Service*
- *Collaboration Across Ages*

Note that these are the lifelong skills that our children need to develop. We are living in uncertain times and we can't predict the future. However, we can prepare our students for the future by empowering them in the present.

So, I encourage you to craft home-based learning experiences that will allow students to develop curiosity, creativity, and empathy.

From John Spencer, "Taking Distance Learning Away from the Screen"
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Collaboration – Rather than having every teacher planning and delivering learning in isolation, consider opportunities for collaboration that are opening up.

Here are examples:

Elementary to Grade 9: A group of teachers within a school could plan holistic learning together around a theme or big idea and share these through a common google classroom or Seesaw. Potential benefits would be:

- Reduced likelihood of overwhelming students
- Sharing expertise as to how to use google classroom
- Planning around high interest themes and big ideas
- Incorporating cross-curricular outcomes through various learning activities in literacy, numeracy, STEAM, wellness and diverse learning
- Synergy between teachers

10, 20, 30 Levels: Once we determine courses needed and enrolments per school

- Where needed, the division would help form design teams of teachers to assemble blended courses, with the support of tech and instructional designers.
- Each teacher would have their own copy of the course as they gradually become available.

Capacity – Fortunately, Living Sky School Division has experience in delivering learning over distance. Both our human connections and our technological infrastructure are strong. Many of our teachers have expertise to share. We will find ways to facilitate support within and between schools as we move ahead. We have set up a website accessible here:

<https://www.lskysd.ca/apps/pages/TeacherSupport>

Challenge - Our greatest challenges may be to reach those who have limited or no tech access.

CHOOSE YOUR TOOLS WITH CARE



Remember Digital Citizenship and Safety

As at all times, staff is asked to protect themselves and their students when it comes to contacting student/families and the use of social media.

Professionalism remains a priority, so please adhere to these guidelines:

-Living Sky Social Media Brochure:

<https://22.files.edl.io/0699/03/30/20/015342-2adc424c-507c-465a-a7aa-119e48d94750.pdf>

-Canadian Federation of Teachers CyberTips:

<https://www.ctf-fce.ca/en/Pages/Issues/Cybertips-for-teachers.aspx>

Be Aware of Privacy and Security Risks

Please remember that the protection of student data is crucial. Not all educational services are created equally when it comes to safeguarding student data.

For this reason, we are promoting our division email, School Messenger, Seesaw and Google Classroom as starting points for you to consider as safe means to contact and deliver instruction. Other services are being evaluated and will be posted on the division website

We caution that before you enter your students in to any online service, please:

- *check out “Connecting: Enhanced Tools” at <https://www.lskysd.ca/apps/pages/TS-Connecting-EnhancedTools> to see if the service has been approved by our tech department*
 - *put in a helpdesk request for any services that are not posted. This will allow tech to do a privacy assessment to determine whether the service is safe.*
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