

March 30, 2020

ascendlearning.org

Dear Ascend parents and families:

Thank you for embracing this new period at Ascend as we have transitioned to remote learning during the coronavirus crisis. Across the network, student attendance, measured now via participation in remote learning, is over 90% on a daily basis--an impressive start!

We know this period brings unique challenges to every home. Many parents are working remotely, nearly every parent has lost the childcare they rely on daily, and many of our students have had to step up to take on new responsibilities around the house. Additionally, some families are still without technology and the internet, and we are working hard to get that in place for everyone. All of these things can complicate your ability to ensure your child is completing all the work we are assigning daily. We understand, and during this period we ask only that you *do your best each day* and expect that your child does his or her best too. Everyone's best effort is going to look different in this period. We want you to know we understand, and we have crafted an attendance process during this period that reflects this understanding.

We are monitoring student attendance via participation each day. If *any* of the following is true for a given day, a student is being marked present during this period:

- Student completed and submitted at least one virtual assignment for the day in question
- Teacher had a phone, text, or video conference with parent or student on day in question
- Student or parent participated in office hours on the day in question

Schools will be following up with students and families directly by phone if students are not actively participating in Google Classrooms during this period.

In our K-8 schools, work is assigned to students Monday through Thursday, and attendance is monitored four days per week. In our high school, work is assigned to students each weekday, and attendance is monitored five days per week. During this time, we will continue honoring the current school calendar in terms of days off.

If there are days when your child will be unable to attend or participate for any reason, please make every effort to share that reason with your child's teacher or the school's director of operations proactively so that reason can be documented, and so the school can respond appropriately to support you and your child.

Thank you for your shared commitment to your child's learning. Your partnership, as ever, is essential to your child's success.



Brandon Sorlie

Chief Schools Officer

