

Hybrid Remote Learning Option

In a “hybrid” model, when some students are in school and others are learning remotely, here’s how remote learning will work.

Early Childhood Program (PK)

After a great deal of research and discussion, we have concluded that it will not be possible to offer a viable remote learning experience for our two-year-olds. More communication about options will be sent to those families.

For three and four-year-old Pre-Kindergarten students, at both Doherty and Lotspeich, the remote learning program will combine synchronous and asynchronous learning experiences. We will group those students whose families want a remote learning experience into a temporary cohort, which will be taught, during that period, by a dedicated teacher, combining students from Doherty and Lotspeich, if necessary, to build out a cohort group. When you are more comfortable about your children returning for in-person learning, they will join their assigned class with their assigned classroom teacher.

Each week, the remote learning teachers will design a series of learning experiences that will mirror those in the classroom and will send home necessary materials. Those learning activities will be completed asynchronously by the student at a time when adult guidance and support is available. In addition, several times a day, at prescribed times, the teacher will use videoconferencing to provide short, synchronous whole group learning experiences for Morning Meeting and a Closing Meeting (featuring storytelling, sharing, and social activities), daily specials on a rotation, and Small Group lessons, including instruction in the following areas: Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, Language Development & Social Emotional.

Kindergarten through Grade 12

In Kindergarten through grade 12, the remote learning experience will be fully synchronous, following the regular school schedule. Teachers will “live stream” their classes, using Swivl cameras with a Zoom interface. Remote learning students will be able to see and hear much of what is going on, ask and answer questions and participate in group activities.

Caveats

We will, of course, make every effort to provide a robust learning experience for remote learners. After last spring, our teachers now have a wealth of experience in orchestrating remote learning through videoconferencing, and a great deal of additional research has been done this summer to prepare for this contingency.

Nevertheless, orchestrating remote learning in a hybrid model will be yet another new experience for our teachers. Though we will do all we can to make the remote learning experience as close as possible to in-person learning, inevitably there will be limitations. Hands-on experiences like science labs and art projects will be difficult to replicate, and in some areas, notably physical education, students need to be able to work independently. We will supply as much assistance as we can, but students and their families will have to fulfill the requirement in some of these areas on their own.

Moreover, remote learning, whether in a hybrid model or in a fully remote system, will be more challenging for younger students. Realistically, Lower School families who choose this option will likely have to provide significant support to their children as they adapt to this new style of learning.

Duration

To provide as much continuity as possible, we are requiring that those who opt for remote learning do so **for a continuous period of at least last four weeks**. The first period will last from **August 18 to September 11**. You will, however, be able to revisit your decision every four weeks, for these eight time periods 1: August 18 - Sept 11; 2: Sept 14 - Oct 16; 3: Oct 19 - Nov 13; 4: Nov 16 - Dec 18; 5: Jan 4 - Feb 5; 6: Feb 8 - March 12; 7: March 29 - April 30; 8: May 3 - June 4.

Restrictions

Students who elect to participate in their academics remotely may participate in after school co-curricular activities held on or off campus, including sports, clubs and activities, and enrichment programs or performing arts rehearsals and performances. However, during the period elected, students who have chosen remote learning should refrain from coming to campus during the regular school day unless special arrangements are made with teachers. Upper School students will be required to come to campus periodically, after hours or on weekends, to take major tests or assessments that can't be practically completed at home.

Cost Structure

In order to provide this robust hybrid option, Seven Hills has made a significant investment in new technologies and equipment. Moreover, providing two simultaneous modes of learning will place a considerable burden on faculty time and energy and will require additional staffing in some areas. Accordingly, there will be no reduction in tuition for those families who opt for remote learning. All families who select this program will be billed at the same costs as outlined in the enrollment contract.

A Final Note

In spite of the limitations and obstacles outlined above, we are, of course, committed to providing the most robust experience for all of our students, whichever option you choose. There will, inevitably, be a learning curve, but as we always do learn from our experience and make adjustments as we go.

Remote Learning Option

If you wish to choose the Hybrid Remote Learning option for your child must complete the remote learning option form by Friday August 7, 2020 by 8:00 pm. The form is located in our School Forms Online (SFO) module. Please login to your my.7hills.org account and click School Forms Online from the upper navigation.