



Sparking potential. Inspiring success.

Staying #ConnectedAsOne

During School Closure Due to COVID-19

A Guide for Families

Alternative Learning Best Practices for Parents and Students

1. Make a schedule for your child and stick to it! Students thrive when things are routine and they know what to expect. It is important to note that students have a comprehensive schedule during the traditional school day that includes breakfast, lunch, recess, physical activity, and learning. It's o.k. if students are not doing academic work for six consecutive hours. We want to give them a balanced routine that keeps their brains engaged, their minds focused, and their hearts light! Here's a suggested schedule you can use during this time:

Elementary Schedule		Middle/High School Schedule	
8:00 – 9:00 a.m.	Wake up, make your bed, eat breakfast and get ready for an awesome day!	8:00 – 9:00 a.m.	Wake up, make your bed, eat breakfast and get ready for an awesome day!
9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Academic time (Reading, Writing, and Math). Students need to read for 45 minutes daily. Grades K-2 can read in three fifteen-minute segments to include read-alouds, picture walks, and independent reading.	9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Academic time (Reading, Writing, and Math). Students need to read for 45 minutes daily,
10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Academic Time (Science and Social Studies)	10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Academic Time (Science and Social Studies)
12:00 – 1:00 p.m.	Lunch	12:00 – 1:00 p.m.	Lunch
1:00 – 1:30 p.m.	Physical Activity-Go outside and play! (Bubbles, Red Light-Green Light, Simon Says, Freeze Tag)	1:00 – 1:30 p.m.	Physical Activity-Go outside and play! (Bubbles, Red Light-Green Light, Simon Says, Freeze Tag)
1:30 – 2:30 p.m.	Creative time: art, music, cooking or meal planning, chores, building and hands-on projects, Legos, drawing, dramatic play, virtual field trips!	1:30 – 2:30 p.m.	Creative time: art, music, cooking or meal planning, chores, building and hands-on projects, Legos, drawing, dramatic play, virtual field trips!
2:30 – 3:00 p.m.	Independent Reading -Read a just right book on your own!	2:30 – 3:00 p.m.	Independent Reading -Read a just right book on your own!
Early finisher? Check out some of the additional resources in the Online Resources for Alternative Learning section of this guide!			

2. Define a set of expectations and norms. Talk to your child about what you expect of them during the “school day”. What does it mean to focus? Designate a quiet space for your child to work. The kitchen table or an office desk if you have one can make for great work spaces and allow students to spread their materials out, sit upright and focus. Remind students about the schedule so they know what is coming next (lunch, physical activity, Science, etc.)
5. Keep activities simple. Remember that this experience cannot match what your child would receive in the traditional school setting with a certified educator each day. However, we have tried to include meaningful and practical activities that connect to what students are expected to learn academically for their grade level/subject. Instead of quantity, focus on the quality and practicality of the assignments. Our goal is to help students stay engaged with learning. Some activities may seem relatively easy, while others are quite challenging. We want kids to learn, and most importantly we want them to keep their love for learning while school is closed.
6. Stay connected with your child’s teacher. Using remind, email, or a good old-fashioned telephone call, contact the teacher for help, assistance, or to ask for guidance as you work with your student. York One teachers are available daily from 9:00 am. until 11:00 a.m. via office hours. Don’t hesitate to contact us if you need help!

Online Resources for Alternative Learning

Achieve3000 is offering free access to resources for differentiated literacy instruction. Educators can access three different programs. [Achieve3000 Literacy at Home](#) offers access to non-fiction articles at three reading levels with topics covering science, social studies and current events. Premium licenses for [Actively Learn](#), for grades 6 -12, provides thousands of texts, including contemporary and classic literature, with collaboration and discussion tools to facilitate interactive remote instruction for English language arts, science and social studies. For students without internet, the company is offering "[Literacy Printable Packets](#)," a set of text sets with 20 printable articles and questions. The company said those text packets add up to a month's worth of content differentiated for students who are at-, below- and above- grade-level in their reading abilities. Lessons can be downloaded and sent home by email or printed out. <https://achieve3000.com/community-resources/remote-learning-2020/>

Age of Learning is offering families at affected schools free at-home access to ABCmouse, a learning resource for ages 2 to 8; Adventure Academy, is open for students ages 8 to 13; and ReadingIQ, a digital library and literacy platform is available for children 12 and under. <https://www.ageoflearning.com/>

Amazon Future Engineer is providing free access to sponsored computer science courses in the United States, intended for independent learners in grades 6-12 and teachers who are remotely teaching this age group. Parents can also access the curriculum. The organization is also offering a virtual robotics program through partners CoderZ with a sequenced course that shows learners how to code; early learners use block-based coding; older learners use text-based coding. And Amazon Future Engineer is providing access to Georgia Tech's EarSketch, a free program that helps students learn to code through music. Grammy-award winning artists Ciara and Common have both provided studio-quality music "stems" that students can remix from home using code. Everything will be available for free at least until fall 2020. <https://www.amazonfutureengineer.com/free-courses>

[American Panorama](#)

This free digital atlas of America uses online GIS to explore and visualize data with maps.

[Arcademics](#)

Boost student engagement & fact fluency with this free multiplayer educational games, math games, language arts games, and more.

[Ascend Math](#)

Ascend Math offers K12 math instruction providing an individual study plan for each student. Free service is offered from now until the end of April for schools new to Ascend Math.

[Book Finder from Reading Rockets](#)

Helps families find books appropriate for the age of their child.

[Center for Early Literacy Learning \(CELL\)](#)

as developed specific materials to assist in guiding their child's early literacy development through the use of fun and exciting early literacy learning experiences. These materials are applicable to specific age groups. Parents may select infants, toddlers, or preschoolers for each type of the resources.

[Cosmic Yoga](#)

Free Yoga and Mindfulness videos for children 3+.

[Ditch That Textbook](#)

Provides 50 elearning activities, templates and tutorials

[DreamScape](#)

Reading game for grades 2-8 that combines strategy, engagement, and imaginative reading passages to create a fun, curriculum-aligned literacy game.

[Dr. Roger's Math Neighborhood](#)

This is a free online video series with detailed solutions to more than a thousand publicly-released College Board SAT Math, Subject Test Math Level 1, and Subject Test Math Level 2 problems.

[Duolingo](#)

Provides foreign language instruction. Free basic content

[GoNoodle](#)

Free Exercise and Mindfulness videos.

[Heggerty](#)

Literacy lessons and assessments for children offered in English and Spanish.

[Helping Struggling Readers](#)

Ideas for families who have readers that need additional support.

[Home Literacy Environment Checklist](#)

Ways to make your home literacy friendly for children.

[How to Choose a Read Aloud Book](#)

Tips on reading aloud to children and selecting books for children.

[i-Ready](#)

Free printable K-8 math and reading packets for students

[IXL](#)

IXL is built on four key components: comprehensive K-12 curriculum, a Continuous Diagnostic, personalized guidance, and real-time analytics. Free IXL access for 90 days is offered in addition to a free webinar series with strategies for at-home learning, plus implementation resources and videos to help plan for school closures.

[Khan Academy](#)

Khan Academy is a free resource for students, teachers, and parents. We offer free lessons in math, science and humanities from kindergarten through the early years of college. Students can use our exercises, quizzes, and instructional videos to learn and master skills. They will get immediate feedback and encouragement.

[Khan Academy Kids](#)

Khan Academy Kids is a free online education program for children ages 2 - 7. The mobile app was designed by child development experts at Stanford University and engages kids in core subjects like early literacy, reading, writing, language, and math, while encouraging creativity and building social-emotional skills. Always free, no ads, no subscriptions, with an offline version available for when internet access is difficult.

[Making Room for Family Literacy](#)

A video that offers ideas on how to make your home a literacy rich environment.

[Moby Max](#)

MobyMax has been the go-to solution for online learning for almost a decade. MobyMax meets students where they are, with personalized lessons in Math, ELA, Science, and Social Studies. The program automatically adapts based on student progress and responses, making it ideal for scenarios where teachers are not readily available.

Printable At-Home Packets and Online Math/Reading Content

Curriculum Associates

Printable at-home activity packs from Curriculum Associates are designed to provide students with valuable self-directed exercises and practice during extended absences from school. Each pack is designed to reinforce key concepts for a given grade. Resources are available for Grades K-8.

Raising Readers What Parents Can Do

Tips on how you can help your child become a reader.

Read Early and Often

Provides information on the importance of reading early and the different stages of literacy development.

Reading Tips for Parents in Multiple Languages

Reading tips for families that speak languages other than English for families.

Reading Rockets' Start with a Book

Provides book centered activities for families to use at home.

Seven Research-Based ways to Promote Early Literacy

A video that promotes family literacy.

Storyline Online

Provides stories being read aloud by actors, as well as book-related activities for children.

Talk, Read and Sing Together Every Day

Provides parents tips on talking, singing and reading that support the language and literacy skills of babies and toddlers.

Thomas B. Fordham Institute

The Thomas B. Fordham has created a list of educational resources for families to assist preschoolers in interactive online learning. [Click here for access to thirty-two free resources.](#)

Virtual Field Trips and Experiential Learning-Common Sense Media

Great games, apps, and websites that can bring places and experiences fostered by field trips to the classroom. While not an outright replacement, these field trip tools can offer inspiring and intriguing experiences for students.

VROOM

VROOM offers **free**, science-based tips and tools to inspire families to turn shared, everyday moments into Brain Building Moments® via app, text and/or printed home resources.

WatchKnowLearn

WatchKnowLearn offers free educational videos in all content areas for K-12 students.

Why Reading Aloud to Kids Helps Them Thrive

Tips for making the most of reading aloud to children.