



TO: Dr. Joel D. Boyd, Superintendent

FROM: Linus J. Guillory Jr., PhD, Chief Schools Officer
Robin Desmond, Chief Academic Officer

DATE: May 6, 2020

RE: Update on COVID 19 from the Office of Teaching and Learning

This memorandum serves to update the School Committee on several topics the Office of Teaching and Learning is working on that have directly been affected as a result of the COVID 19 school closure. The Office of Teaching and Learning has altered many practices to accommodate for the changes. There are several items in progress and other items that need to be considered at this time.

Remote Learning:

- Pre-K through grade eight learning packets continue to be developed weekly by the Curriculum Office. The packets are printed and distributed at food sites on Fridays and Mondays.
- PDFs of the packets are placed in the *Remote Learning* area of the LPS website for teachers to access on Thursdays for planning purposes.
- After reviewing the most recent guidance from the DESE, the Curriculum Team has revised and shared curriculum maps through the end of the school year with staff (please see pages 3-5).
- The Curriculum Team has created a remote learning resource site for teachers with editable versions of the packet pages for several remote learning platforms as well as other resources for teaching and learning.
- Remote learning video tutorials and professional development have been, and will continue to be, provided to staff and families for the remote learning environment.
- Schools are tracking student attendance and participation on remote learning platforms.

Device Distribution:

- The Technology Department prepared and supported the distribution of over 4200 devices to meet the needs of families. These efforts were made possible with the support of building based staff who contacted families and supported each individual school distribution dates. To date, we have completed three distribution dates for every school K-8 and five distribution dates for LHS.
- Families and staff have been provided the help desk online form and phone number to provide technical assistance for LPS issued devices.

- A “Tech. Tent” was set up at the STEM food distribution site on Thursday, 4/30 and Friday, 5/1 to accommodate help desk appointments and drive up device servicing and support for families and staff. This service is only available for LPS devices. The Technology Department serviced 50 device issues at the “Tech. Tent” on Thursday and Friday. This week, the IT department will be available at the “Tech. Tent” from 10am to noon at: the Pawtucketville Memorial on Monday, 3/4, the Reilly on Tuesday, 3/5, the Butler on Wed. 3/6, and the Morey on Friday, 3/8. Moving forward, this service will be expanded to other food distribution sites throughout the city. Please watch for more information.

Senior Prom:

- 5/26/2020 is the originally planned prom date at the Lowell Memorial Auditorium.
- LHS has reserved 6/17/2020 as a possible prom date at the Lowell Memorial Auditorium.

Graduation:

- LHS graduation at Tsongas 6/3/2020 (original date); this date remains on the books as a placeholder
 - 6/24/2020 and 8/12/2020 are reserved as back-up graduation dates
 - Continue exploring all viable options
- Senior Class officers continue gathering input from students on their thoughts/ideas.
- This will be a coordinated effort across LPS, the City, parents, administration, staff, and most especially students to offer the safest and best possible graduation ceremony.
- LHS leaders are sharing and discussing plans with other area schools to make sure all options are reviewed and considered.
- Parents/guardians or students that have any questions regarding graduation status are reaching out to their guidance counselor and house dean.

Senior Awards night:

- Planning a virtual ceremony during the first week of June
- Impacts approximately 300 seniors
- This is a coordinated event with Greater Lowell Community Foundation
- Graduating students will need to receive their scholarships to proceed with their post-secondary plans

Report Cards

- Elementary - will issue an end of year report card (focused on engagement) that includes the special education progress reports
- Middle School - will issue a progress report focused on engagement mid-May and a final report card in June
- LHS - will publish progress grades in the student management system the week of May 8th

Staff & Student building Checkout

- Plans are underway to create a task force to prepare for end of year closeouts for students and staff
- A committee is being assembled to ensure that students and staff are able to safely pick up their items from school as well as allow staff to pack-up their classrooms

- LHS will form a committee to address this matter

Remote Learning Plan K-8 Update

On Friday, April 24, new remote learning guidance was issued by DESE to carry us through the end of the school year. The document builds on the initial guidance offered on March 26, 2020, with a deeper emphasis on new learning. Now teaching and learning should include a focus on the content standards most critical for student success in the next grade level, or “prerequisite standards”. Upon receiving the new information, the Curriculum Coordinators reviewed and updated the curriculum maps that had been shared for the remainder of the school year.

Grades K-4

ELA

The new DESE ELA Standards guidance aligns with the Revised Curriculum Map that was previously shared with leaders, coaches, and teachers. We are beginning nonfiction reading in all grade levels next week, in Week 7, and informational writing or opinion writing in all grade levels. Students in all grades K-4 will continue to receive Writing about Reading prompts to support opinion writing remotely. We will end the year with a focus on fiction reading and narrative writing. While the released standards did not explicitly state the narrative writing focus, we know it is important to return to this genre as a way to connect students to the learning that has been ongoing. As all writing standards have been addressed at each grade level, this gives us the opportunity to return to narrative writing.

Math

As with ELA, the topics identified in the adjusted curriculum map for K-4 Mathematics aligns with the prerequisite content standards identified by newly released DESE guidance documents. However, there are some standards, one or two per grade level, that had not been addressed previously this year at each grade level, that can be considered new learning for students. These standards have been identified by grade level. Moving forward, we have a team of math resource teachers assigned to each grade level, working on developing content that will support teachers in addressing these standards. These teams are soliciting feedback and input from teachers to guide this work. While the topics identified in the adjusted curriculum map will not change, we will be providing resources for teachers to use to address the standards that can be considered new learning for students.

Science and Social Studies

We will meet the prerequisite standards for K-4 through a group effort between the coordinator, classroom teachers, and content literacy teachers. A revised curriculum map was developed by analyzing which prerequisite standards had already been addressed on the original curriculum map from before the school closure, and then mapping out a coherent plan for addressing the remaining prerequisite standards between the classroom teachers and content literacy teachers. The new curriculum map can be found [here](#). In a few cases, the topics have changed from the previous curriculum map. Weekly packet work will address prerequisite standards in science and social studies for the classroom teachers. Content literacy teachers will work together to adapt resources for their lessons.

Grades 5-8

ELA

The new DESE guidance aligns with the Revised Curriculum Map that was previously shared with leaders, coaches, and teachers. We are beginning informational reading and writing in all grades 5 & 6 next week, in Week 7. In grades 7 & 8, students will return to memoir reading and writing. They will engage in reading narrative nonfiction, as well as writing memoirs. Memoir writing is a hybrid genre that incorporates informational writing about the person, narrative writing as the structure, and argument writing about why the moments, memories, etc., are important. Students in all grades 5-8 will continue to receive Writing about Reading prompts to support opinion/argument writing remotely. We will end the year with a focus on fiction reading and narrative writing across various genres. These include, mystery, personal narrative, historical fiction, and science fiction. While the released standards did not explicitly state the narrative writing focus, we know it is important to return to this genre as a way to connect students to the learning that has been ongoing. As all writing standards have been addressed at each grade level, this gives us the opportunity to return to narrative writing in different genres.

Math

As with ELA, the topics identified in the adjusted curriculum map for 5-8 Mathematics aligns with the prerequisite content standards identified by newly released DESE guidance documents. However, there are some standards in grades 6 and 8 that had not been addressed previously this year at each grade level, that can be considered new learning for students. In grade 6 there are only two standards that will require us to make some changes to the curriculum map, but grade 8 has many more so the changes to the map will be more substantial. We have begun discussing these changes with a group of math resource teachers and 8th grade math teachers and will release the revised curriculum map once it is finalized. We have a team of math resource teachers for each grade level developing content that will support teachers in their efforts. The map will remain the same for grades 5 and 7, but grades 6 and 8 will include content to address the “new learning” standards where appropriate.

Science and Social Studies

Many of the prerequisite standards have been met in topics taught September through March, and the remaining prerequisite standards will be addressed in the last units. A revised curriculum map was developed by analyzing which prerequisite standards had already been addressed on the original curriculum map from before the school closure, and then mapping out a coherent plan for addressing the remaining prerequisite standards. (The only exception is fifth grade social studies, where the prerequisite standards represent curriculum new to LPS which will be addressed when we are not in a remote learning environment.) The new curriculum map can be found [here](#), where specific prerequisite standards are identified within the topic. These are the standards that should be your focus as you plan lessons for remote learning. Weekly packet work will also address prerequisite standards in science and social studies, and can be an additional resource for teachers.

Remote Learning Teacher Resource Pages Grades K-8

The curriculum coordinators will continue to add resources to the Remote Learning Teacher Resource Pages on the district website to support teachers with planning for remote learning.

Click to go back, hold to see history

LOWELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Our District Departments Parents & Students Community Staff

Lowell Public Schools Parents & Students At Home Learning

AT HOME LEARNING

Overview

- Online Learning - Clever
- Comcast Internet Essentials
- Information about Xfinity WiFi Hotspots
- Find an Xfinity Hotspot
- Virtual Read Alouds
- Printable Packets PreK-8
- ESL Resources
- Social & Emotional Learning Resources
- Special Education Resources
- Remote Learning Resources for Teachers

AT HOME LEARNING

During this time away from school, we know many families are looking for ways to continue learning at home. Below, you will find a variety of printable and online learning resources available to you. These enrichment opportunities are intended to support your child's learning at each grade level and across subjects, but are optional. This website will be updated weekly to add new enrichment opportunities.

- Preschool
- Kindergarten
- Grade 1
- Grade 2
- Grade 3
- Grade 4
- Grade 5
- Grade 6
- Grade 7
- Grade 8
- Grades 9-12

ONLINE LEARNING

Your child also has access to apps and websites that they may have used previously in school by logging into Clever. Each

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