

# **Lewis Center for Educational Research Academy for Academic Excellence**



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Dear AAE Families:

It is with both sadness and excitement that we look forward to the start of the 2020-21 school year. We are disappointed that we are unable to have students back on campus in-person at this time, but we are excited to be able to connect with our students on August 3, the first day of school. As we partner together, we can make learning much better for students as both our teachers and students continue to build their capacity through distance learning.

## **Distance Learning**

Our teachers learned a lot from the pandemic crisis teaching we experienced during school closures in the Spring. They are busy at work planning a more robust distance learning program for the coming year. Distance learning will include live video instruction with direct teacher contact on M/T/Th/F and independent student work time each Wednesday. Synchronous video instruction will be recorded and be available for later viewing if needed. Assignments and assessments will be graded, as well as frequent feedback given to ensure student mastery and accountability. General secondary and elementary schedules are at the end of this letter.

California compulsory education law requires everyone between the ages of six and eighteen years of age to attend school. A variety of ways, such as student participation in synchronous instruction, evidence of online activities, assignment completion, and other activities, will be used to track and report attendance during distance learning.

See the [School Plan for Safe Reopening](#) found on the school website, which outlines the different Instructional Programs that may be offered during the school year: Distance Learning, Hybrid 2-Day In-Person, Hybrid 4-Day In-Person.

## **School-to-Home Communication**

Given the increased challenges that distance learning poses, we want to provide as much communication and support as possible to our families. Infinite Campus Messenger has replaced ParentSquare. You can expect to receive general information, attendance messages, and any emergency alerts from both administration and teachers through Messenger. Teachers will continue to use Google Classroom to communicate their daily schedules, assignments, resources, and all things academic to students.

Virtual AAE Parent Forums will be held weekly on Fridays at 1:00 p.m. during August. Our last one was highly successful. 187 parents attended the AAE Parent Forum and a total of 50 AAE

and NSLA parents attended the LCER Parent Forum held for both AAE and NSLA parents in the evening.

Our next AAE Parent Forum is scheduled for Friday, August 7 at 1:00 p.m. You may register here: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6698007541677313808>

The combined LCER Parent Forum is scheduled for Friday, August 7 at 5:00 p.m. You may register here: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5386071366926800656>

Both New Family Orientation and Back to School Knight will be held virtually this year. Look for postings on the school website and social media. A special welcome to our new families that are joining us during this challenging time!

### **Instructional Minutes**

The state’s assembly bill, AB 77, requires minimum instructional minutes for distance learning. Instructional time includes synchronous time, asynchronous time, and time value of assignments. This is the total time a student is expected to be engaged in distance learning during a school day.

### **Required Daily Instructional Minutes**

Grade Span	Required instructional minutes
TK/K	180 minutes
1st-3rd	230 minutes
4th-12th	240 minutes

### **Daily Schedules**

Individual teachers will be providing their daily schedules to students in Google Classroom. We created the general schoolwide schedules below to guide staff planning so that synchronous instruction times are less likely to conflict and TK-2 students can share devices with older siblings if needed. Below are those general timeframes available for teachers to be on live with students. Again, please check Google Classroom to confirm exact times and get Zoom links.

### **Secondary Phase 1 Distance Learning Schedule**

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:00 - 8:20	Homeroom	Homeroom	Teacher Office Hours <hr/> Students working independently <hr/> Small Group Instruction	Homeroom	Homeroom
8:20 - 9:20	Period 1	Period 2		Period 1	Period 2
9:40 - 10:40	Period 3	Period 4		Period 3	Period 4
11:00 - 12:00	Period 5	Period 6		Period 5	Period 6

\*MS Homeroom is a check-in time and opportunity to complete distance learning assignments.

## Elementary Phase 1 Distance Learning Instructional Schedule

TK-2	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:00-9:00	TK-2 ELA	TK-2 ELA/SS	Teacher Office Hours	TK-2 ELA/SS	TK-2 ELA
9:15-10:00	TK-2 Math/Sci	TK-2 Math	Students working independently	TK-2 Math	TK-2 Math/Sci
10:00-12:00	Independent Learning Time	Independent Learning Time	Small Group Instruction	Independent Learning Time	Independent Learning Time

3-5	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:00-10:00	Independent Learning Time	Independent Learning Time	Teacher Office Hours	Independent Learning Time	Independent Learning Time
10:00-11:00	3rd-5th grade ELA	3rd-5th grade ELA/SS	Students working independently	3rd-5th grade ELA/SS	3rd-5th grade ELA
11:15-12:00	3rd-5th grade Math/Science	3rd-5th grade Math	Small Group Instruction	3rd-5th grade Math	3rd-5th grade Math/Science

### FAQs

#### **Do students need to wear school uniforms during distance learning?**

*No. Students should wear appropriate school attire at home during synchronous instruction.*

#### **What about donations of classroom supplies?**

*Suggested voluntary donations for classes are on the website. Please hold on to those until we enter the Phase 2 Hybrid Model and students return in-person. Thank you for your generosity!*

#### **When will we hear from teachers?**

*Students will receive their student portal activation email through their student Gmail accounts in the week before school begins. Teachers should e-mail/text parents through Messenger by the Friday before school starts.*

#### **Where do I start?**

*Register for the Parent Portal in Infinite Campus*

*Navigate to Schedules to find your child's class schedule or teacher assignment*

*Pick up a device during designated distribution dates for 4<sup>th</sup> grade, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, and new students, Returning students Grades 5-12 should have their device from last school year*

*Watch for an e-mail from your child's teacher(s) with Google Classroom codes and additional information*

*Checkout the information posted on the school's website such as the Parent/Student Handbook and IT's Parent Information*

Our entire staff is here to serve you.. We will do our very best to meet your child's academic and social needs through distance learning until we can have all of our students back in person.

Warmest regards,



Valli Andreasen, AAE Principal