

Parents,

We have been working diligently to develop distance learning plans in order to continue education for your children. Please know adjustments may be made as needed and we are here to assist in any way we can. We dearly miss seeing your precious children's faces and we appreciate your patience and understanding during this process.

Up until now, we have shared optional resources to help your children continue to practice the skills they have learned. On March 25, we will begin distance learning using our school's teacher webpages. This can be found at <https://oge.desotocountyschools.org/>. Once on our school website, click on the staff directory button. Next, click on your teacher's link to their webpage. Information regarding assignments, links to learning/helpful websites, and notes from the teacher will be found there. \*\*Please make sure to check your teacher's webpages daily, as information may change.

### **Getting Prepared**

1. A sense of normalcy, structure, and routine are important components to help your child succeed. We encourage you and your children to create a schedule or plan for daily learning activities. MDE has provided helpful tips and information on their website. [www.mdek12.org/LearningAtHome](http://www.mdek12.org/LearningAtHome)
2. Make sure to check the teacher webpage daily for any new information.

### **What to Expect**

1. Assignments will be given weekly via teacher website. At this time, there will be no new skills being taught. To help with student retention, it will be a review of previously taught skills.
2. Resources your child's teacher plans to use will be listed/provided.
3. Please be mindful that teacher's lessons may vary to meet the needs of their students.
4. Students who receive services will still be provided with assistance.
5. Gifted students please check for information on the gifted teacher webpages and via Facebook page (Oak Grove – SPOTLIGHT).
6. Activity teachers will be posting information and activities, so please also check their webpages and Facebook pages (Ogce PE and OGCEs Music Dept.).
7. Please see our school Facebook page for school announcements and activities provided by our activity teachers. <https://www.facebook.com/ogchernandotigers/>

## **General Guidelines and Contact Information**

1. Office hours will be 7am-3pm.
2. You may contact teachers through their school email address, School Status, or through other apps your child's teacher prefers to use (Remind, Class Dojo, etc.) for any questions, support, concerns, or assistance needed.
3. Please be mindful and understanding that several of our teachers also have children at home they are trying to care for and assist with their own distance learning, so response times may vary.
4. Teachers will try to respond within 24 hours. It is the teacher's discretion if he/she chooses to respond at times outside of office hours.

## **No Internet Access?**

One option being provided is the school district has increased the signal strength of all our schools' WIFI systems. This will give students who need internet the ability to sit in the parking lot and use our WIFI. They need to login to the Guest WIFI network. There is no password needed. Filtering is being done, but not at the same level. An entirely new network was built to make this happen and you will not see our Internet filter. All the applications used at school have been tested and they all work. Students who know how to login will be able to login to the regular school WIFI as they do when they are in class.

The MUW Library has also shared a statewide map of publicly accessible hotspots which can be accessed from your vehicle. The following link is to Google Maps – <https://t.co/WnwYbdRdz0> .

Another option being provided is that our district specialists are creating grade level packets for students who do not have access to technology. Packets will be available for pick up at our Grab and Go lunch sites and sent to each school. They will also be available at Oak Grove Central Elementary starting March 26th. Packets will be in a bin by the front door of the school. We ask that each family only get one packet (unless you have more than one student in the same grade). \*At this time, these packets are only available for those who do not have internet access.

## **Accountability**

We understand this is outside of the norm for everyone involved. At this time, we are not permitted to take grades for assignments. We do highly encourage that we work together to push the students to work hard at practicing their skills in order to continue mastering 5<sup>th</sup> grade standards and expectations. We are providing instruction based on standards and student needs based on data. We will also be providing feedback and support. Our intent is to make sure students retain the standards they've already learned and prepare them for the next grade.

## **Mississippi Department of Education Providing Learning-at-Home Resources**

The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) has compiled a host of learning-at-home resources for students in pre-K through grade 12 to support student learning during the extended school closure. The resources are available online at [www.mdek12.org/LearningAtHome](http://www.mdek12.org/LearningAtHome).

These do not replace what children have learned at school, but instead help students practice the skills and strategies taught by their teachers. The resources are intended to help parents and caregivers engage students in continued education.

Resources include learning activities, example videos and digital resources that support the Mississippi College-and Career-Readiness Standards to continue and reinforce children's education.

MDE content specialists have selected all resources, which include dedicated webpages for students in pre-K-grade 1, grades 2-3, grades 4-5, grades 6-8 and grades 9-12. Also, resources for students with visual or hearing impairments are available and guidance on social emotional learning.

During this unusual time of extended school closures nationwide, it is important that students continue to read, write, and engage in social studies, science and math activities.

The [MDE learning-at-home webpages](#) will be updated periodically with additional resources.

### **Mental Health**

We want to ensure positive mental health for all students and families. In order to alleviate any anxiety or stress, mental health resources will be available on the district Mental Health and School Counselors' Websites. Please visit <https://www.desotocountyschools.org/mentalhealth> for more information.

We will contact you as we learn of any new information regarding your child's education. It is our goal to help ensure your children continue to grow and are fully prepared upon their return to school. Please do not hesitate to contact us regarding any questions or concerns. We look forward to this new journey with our students!

Sincerely,

OGCE Teachers