

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

First and foremost, during this time, student and staff safety is our primary concern. Currently, even our faculty and staff have very limited access to our building. Please bear with us, we are working diligently to create an effective distance learning plan and to be available in whatever ways that we are needed.

How can I reach the school during this time?

The school building is closed so there is no one there to answer the phone. We have created a new phone number where we can be reached. Call or text (405)283-8188 if you have questions. In addition to our regular email addresses, you may also reach us via email at covid19@icmsokc.com.

How will the school be contacting parents and students during this time?

Email will be our main form of communication to get information out to you. Please check it often. We will be sending emails to both parents and students. We will use the email addresses parents provided during enrollment as well as student school email addresses.

Do students still have to take the state tests?

No. Oklahoma has gotten permission from the federal government to skip the tests this year.

How long will “distance learning” take place?

It is set to begin on Monday, April 6th and will end on Friday, May 8th.

Will students get to go on to the next grade in the fall?

Yes, students will go to the next grade unless they have ALREADY BEEN NOTIFIED that they won't pass. Remember, we've already gone through $\frac{3}{4}$ of the school year.

Are students going to have to turn in assignments and get grades?

We are following the guidelines the Oklahoma State Department of Education has provided. Per the SDE directive on distance learning, no student's grade can go down from where it was before spring break. Any effort and work they turn in can only help their grade. We ask your help in keeping your child engaged and motivated. We will do all that we can from a distance to ensure learning, but your partnership is important.

Students will be able to raise their cumulative grades as they stood on the last day of on-site instruction, March 12, just as they would have been able to do had the academic year finished with in-person schooling. They may accomplish this in a variety of ways, including completing new assignments given during distance learning, submitting missing assignments, completing unfinished work, or making test corrections. All of this will be at the direction of their teachers.

The ultimate goal between April 6th and May 8th is to keep students moving forward in their education by them staying active and engaged.

Can students make up assignments missed before school was called off?

Yes. If it's a worksheet or ISN entry (something on paper), students may be able to take a picture of it and email it to the teacher. Students might also be able to do something different and have it substituted for the missing assignment. Wait for teachers' guidance on this next week, but please make sure to ask them individually if there is something that hasn't been done. The teachers will work with students on that.

Will students get to see other people and talk to other people online?

Most likely! We're planning to use Google Meet as much as we can, which will let classes see each other. In class meetings, the microphones will be muted unless the teacher asks someone to unmute. Students will be reminded of the Acceptable Use Policy and we expect the online time to be used as is intended, but we also want students to be able to see their classmates. The teachers want to see the students, too! Stay tuned for more information.

What about WIN, Focus, Advisory, and specialty classes?

They're going to be different. WIN and Focus are finished for the year. Advisory classes will meet each day (Monday thru Thursday) at 10AM. Advisory teachers will share any information that needs to be shared regarding the assignments the teachers have. They will also be giving students a few minutes to chat together. Mrs. Rumbaugh and Mrs. West are working with the specialty teachers to decide exactly what will happen with those classes.

What if students don't have internet access?

ICMS will have access to a very limited number of hotspots for checkout. Families in need of low-cost internet can [click here for Cox low-cost internet](#) (or call 855-222-3252) or can [click here for AT&T low-cost internet](#). In addition to these resources, Cox is offering two free months of internet access and installation for those who qualify. To learn more about this, [click here](#). For additional internet options, [Free and Low Cost Internet Assistance](#). Students who cannot use the internet for distance learning at this time may contact administration at one of the numbers listed below.

Can a phone be used for online classes? We don't have a computer for the student to use.

A cell phone may be used, but a different device will probably be preferred. We have been putting together a list of students who need to check out a Chromebook. Currently, we are waiting on Chromebook covers for those that we will check out to the students needing one. Please be patient with this. As you can imagine, the entire country is in the same position that we are in. Therefore, we are at the mercy of delivery times and things being in high demand. Some students may not have a Chromebook by the time that we begin distance learning on Monday, April 6th. Teachers are aware of this and plan to start off slow. Don't worry about this! Students will not be considered behind.

What is "distance learning" going to look like?

As it stands right now, teachers will post assignments on their Google Classroom by 7AM each morning. At 10AM every morning (Monday-Thursday), Advisory teachers will hold a Google Meet that will last about 30 minutes. During that time, Advisory teachers will give any specific directions for the day and answer any questions. We know that many will have other family members working from home and we understand that. Students are able to work on assignments at any time during the day or the evening; however, please note

that teachers are only available between 8:00-11:30AM and 1:30-3:00PM (Monday - Thursday) and 8:00-11:30AM on Fridays. Between 11:30-1:30, teachers *will not be available*. We are stressing that everyone use that time to take a break, eat lunch, and do something physical. If it is a nice day, get outside! Make sure to move. We *do not* want anyone to be sitting at a computer all day working. At this time, assignments for Math and Language Arts will be posted on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays; and assignments for Science and Social Studies posted on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Specialty classes will share some things that students can be doing, but they will be more for enrichment and fun! None of the lessons during our distance learning plan are designed for the parent to be the teacher, but rather to facilitate learning. Each family is completely in charge of the schedule concerning when, how often, and how long children will spend on Google Classroom and the assignments.

How will students and parents be able to communicate with teachers?

There will be many ways to get in touch with teachers. Students will only be able to work through their school-assigned Google Logins. Assignments will be launched from **Google Classroom**. Students will also meet with their Advisory teacher via **Google Meet** at 10AM on Mondays through Thursdays. An explanation of how to use Google Meet is attached to this email. Students will be able to use the **Google Chat** feature through their school Google account. An explanation of how to use Chat is also attached to this email. Teachers may be reached via their school email addresses. Every teacher will be able to contact students and parents by phone as well. There may be times that a teacher arranges to teach/reteach students via a live Google Meet. These will be recorded for students who may need the information but cannot “attend” at the set time. There are certain to be challenges to distance learning, especially since none of us anticipated this. Please communicate any issues to the teachers, counselor, and/or administrators. Communication is the key to making this work in the best way we know how. **Please be aware that the Acceptable Use Policy for Technology is in place at all times. Students violating this policy will be referred to an administrator and parents contacted.**

The student has an IEP. How will that work?

Amy Pemberton, our special education director, has been contacting every family of a student on an IEP. Also, the special education teachers will be in regular contact to assist where needed.

What happened to the progress reports that were supposed to go home on March 13th?

Progress reports will not be mailed home; however, report cards will be mailed later in May. We will let you know the specific date as we get closer. During the distance learning window, students' grades cannot lower; they can only be raised. Please contact our counselor, Susan Linderer (slinderer@icmsokc.com) if you need help accessing WenGage to check current grades.

Without state testing, how will we know about student progress?

Fortunately, ICMS has other types of assessment in place, including the STAR tests that all students should have taken at least three times this school year. We have already been using them to track student progress and will continue to do so when we get back to school in the fall. (Students, this is one of the reasons that we stress to take these tests seriously.)

What about 8th grade graduation and the banquet?

It can't be the way it was planned. We're working to envision a new way of making something special happen for students. Right now, though, we've got to get this whole distance learning thing going. If you have not done so already, please go ahead and provide the 3 pictures (as a baby/toddler, in elementary school, and one now). Please send those electronically to frontoffice@icmsokc.com. In the meantime, suggestions for how to make this time special for our 8th graders are welcome.

When can students turn in library books? athletic uniforms?

We will let you know when it is safe to be back up at the school to turn things in.

How will this affect pom tryouts?

Ms. Wiley is working on a plan for that! Who would have thought that we would have such a thing as "virtual tryouts"? Our goal right now is to get distance learning underway. Information about pom tryouts will come later.

Will students get their yearbooks that were ordered?

Yes. Ms. Termini is working things out with the yearbook publisher on how to best get them delivered to students. At this time, it looks like they will be mailed, but we still aren't sure. We don't anticipate the yearbook arriving until late April or early May.

Will students get their spring pictures?

At this time, the plan is to mail the spring pictures. We are working to get the proper mailers in order to be able to do so. Our current and most pressing focus is to get our distance learning underway.

What can we do in addition to the learning opportunities ICMS provides?

Common Sense Media has developed [Wide Open School](#), designed for parents to have one spot in which to find access to media and programs such as Khan Academy, National Geographic PBS, *Time for Kids*, etc. If you'd like to go directly to the middle school programs within Wide Open School, [click here](#).

OETA has adjusted its daytime schedule to provide curriculum-based programming for parents and students M-F from 6 a.m. until 6 p.m. You are encouraged to visit OETA.tv/LearningAtHome to view an updated program schedule, channel list, curriculum, and activities.

Can students be provided meals during this time?

A prior email was sent with the locations throughout OKC where any student (ages 0-18) may pick up "Grab and Go" breakfast and lunch each weekday. For more information, click [here](#).

I have a specific question, comment, or concern. Who can I contact for further support?

You can contact administration by email or by texting to the following numbers:

- Mrs. Rumbaugh, Principal/Superintendent: jrumbaugh@icmsokc.com 405-283-8188
- Mrs. West, Dean of Students/Academic Interventionist: jwest@icmsokc.com 405-548-5399
- Ms. Linderer, School Counselor/Homeless Liaison: slinderer@icmsokc.com 405-283-8576