

Virtual Teaching Strategies

A Guide for Parents



There are many great teachers and therapists who try their best to meet kid's needs, whether they're in school, or doing school at home. Use this list to determine if your teacher and therapists are utilizing best practices and actively pursuing the success of your child.

1. Create a Weekly schedule and post it by Sunday before the start of the week.
2. Detail, on the weekly schedule, the directions with a list of the student's work for the week.
Weekly schedule details:
 - a. Time of Daily Zoom/Microsoft Team Meeting with details on where to find the link and provide password.
 - b. List of assignments for each subject: Reading, Language Arts, Math, Social Studies, Specials, PE/Recess and title of the assignment with directions where to find it in Canvas. Provide usernames and password wherever necessary.
3. Zoom/Microsoft Teams Meeting for an hour at the start of the day.
4. Zoom/Microsoft Teams Meeting conducted to teach a lesson in Language Arts and a Lesson in Math while engaging students to participate during the lesson by answering questions and working together.
5. Zoom/Microsoft Teams Meeting Math lesson taught using class math textbook and same tools as the classroom.
6. Zoom/Microsoft Teams Meeting Language Arts lesson taught using the same tools and techniques used to teach the lesson in the classroom environment.
7. Share Teacher's screen as a visual to help students understand where to find the assignments.
8. Share Teacher's screen as a visual to help students understand lessons being taught during the 1 hour of virtual video teaching.
9. Engage students and keep them on task and attentive during the zoom/Microsoft Teams meeting using the same verbal prompts as in the classroom setting. Maintain ALL student's attention, no different than when teaching in the classroom – with parent or home support.
10. Encourage students to ask questions by raising their hands or typing it in the chat room.
11. Create videos and post in the parent/teacher communication platform (ClassTag, Remind App) for parents to watch. The videos detail how to access all the assignments in Canvas and/or other platforms.
12. Use a parent/teacher communication platform (ClassTag, Remind App) throughout the academic year, but more so during this pandemic time to communicate to parents by posting announcements once or twice a day. The communication/announcements usually are about the assigned work for that day.

13. Maintain communication with Room Parent and collaborate with them to help relay all the daily communication/announcements to parents via text messages or emails (in addition to the ClassTag, Remind App). This is a way for the Room Parent who often volunteers inside the classroom on a weekly basis to help the teacher virtually.
14. When creating videos to send to parents, the teacher uses a students' portal (using students user ID and Password) to help illustrate to parents how to navigate the Canvas platform. As opposed to using her teacher portal which has a different "look" than the students.
15. This access to the student's portal also helps the teacher understand what the parents can see and how she can organize the messages/assignments/links to assignments better and organize the teacher's page on Canvas to be user-friendly for both students and parents.
16. Provide parents with a Teacher Schedule at the beginning of the start of virtual school. The Teacher Schedule includes a detailed breakdown during the hours of 8:30 AM-12:30 PM:
 - a. 8:30-9:00 Office Hours: with a summary of duties during that time.
 - b. 9:00-10:00: Online Video Class Meeting
 - c. 10:00-11:30: Office hours: with a summary of duties during that time.
 - d. 11:30-12:30: Lunch
 - e. 12:30 onward: Teacher Planning with a detailed description of his/her duties during that time.
17. Contact parents of the students with IEPs privately and explain accommodations and services listed on the IEP, as opposed to announcing it through the virtual on line meeting what these students should work on that's not the same as the rest of the class.
18. Provide the students' parents with a list of accommodations and supplementary aids and discuss with them how to use them during "at home" assignments and testing.
19. Discuss and provide parents a list of the student's goals and explain to parents how she/he measures the goals.
20. Create an attendance quiz for students to take every morning before Zoom/Microsoft Teams Meeting with fun silly questions that grab the student's attention and sets the tone for the morning meeting.
21. Prepare all parents for upcoming tests, by communicating through parent/teacher communication platform the day before a test.
22. Take advantage of BCPS Applications and Resources such as, Think Central, I-ready, Brain POP.
23. Provide parents with access to other resources like EPIC and use that platform to assign books to each individual student to continue reading and take AR tests.
24. Use Think Central to assign Math homework daily. Think Central is an interactive platform provided by the Go Math Textbook manufacturer. Students were not able to take their Math Textbooks home and teachers can't make parents print pages of Textbooks (per district instructions). Therefore, the teacher uses Think Central as a form of substitution.
25. Use other interactive materials to help gain understanding of the material in Think Central such as, GO Math! Animated Math Models, Interactive Student Edition and Math on the Spot Videos.
26. Record Daily Zoom/Microsoft Team Meetings and send to parents who must work and are not at home during the time the student is engaged and logged in for the daily on line video instructions. Providing this recording of the teacher's live morning lesson is beneficial for students to watch as many times as they need, to help with understanding of the lessons being taught during that time.
27. Daily recorded videos of teacher reading a book.
28. Weekly phone calls on the same day and time as counseling services were being provided at the school.
29. Speech therapist communicates with parents about upcoming ways he/she will deliver their services. Creates a Sign-up Genius link for parents to sign their child up to meet with them via Zoom/Microsoft Teams Meetings. Allow flexibility to pick a time that does not overlap with homeroom teacher's virtual video schedule.
30. Occupational Therapist communicates with parents about ways he/she will deliver their services. This can be through live video chats and pre-recorded sessions/activities, and parent/student home exercise activities.