



Genesee Community Charter School

at the Rochester Museum & Science Center

Phase II: Establishing a Culture of Distance Learning

During Phase II (second two weeks of closure), the Genesee Community Charter School will be focused on establishing routines and rituals for online distance learning. We believe online learning enables students to have continuous access to an array of educational programs and tools beyond what learning packets can provide. There are three goals for this initiative:

1. Shift instructional practice to be student centered
2. Differentiate learning to meet the needs of all students
3. Re-establish a strong community culture remotely

During this phase, teachers will utilize their “home base” for daily assignments, recorded mini-lessons, and will point families to consistent online applications (such as i-Ready, Zearn, and Epic) that target students’ needs in reading and mathematics. These lessons can be completed independently and will track attendance/participation and assessment naturally. Applications like i-Ready and Zearn are aligned to grade level standards and Epic allows teachers to choose books at student’s reading level. For families who are unable to have full online access or students need additional support as indicated by their IEP or 504 Plans, teachers will reach out to families by providing additional packets of similar work, will provide additional strategies for completing online work, and/or one adult will be assigned to tutor students by phone.

During this phase, teachers will experiment with other applications (such as Loom and Flipgrid) as a platform to create and provide instructional lessons that meet specific ELA, Math, and Expedition standards. These lessons will help teachers determine best practices for more strategic lesson planning and instruction in Phase III.

This phase also provides opportunity for teachers to re-establish the strong community culture within their classes. Therefore, teachers will begin to hold virtual “Morning Meetings” for classes to meet remotely (using Zoom and/or Google Meets) at least once a week during this phase. Ideally, these Morning Meetings are recorded so students/families can access them at any time. Teachers will track attendance and participation during these meetings and provide opportunities for students to contribute even if they could not participate “live.” Additionally, the arts team will establish virtual “Community Circles” once a week to bring the whole school back together again for singing and school-wide culture-building initiatives.

Since GCCS is establishing remote learning outside of school walls, there are associated policies and procedures that are still in effect and can be found in the [GCCS Family Handbook](#), Caring Community Commitment Plan, Internet Usage and Safety Policies, and any other applicable laws.

Ownership

Some students who did not already own a personal device at home have been provided a device from GCCS. The device, carrier, and all other accessories that have been issued to the student by GCCS are the property of Genesee Community Charter School. These items are on loan to the student for educational use during the school closure. Each student will be assigned a device. In the event that a student withdraws from GCCS or violates a related-policy, he/she will be required to return the device to the school. Students will be required to return their device when GCCS is reopened.

Safety

Whether using a personal device from home or a GCCS device, there are some risks associated with online learning outside of the school building.

1. When using the internet at school, our network provides filters to limit student access as a safety precaution. Since devices are being used outside of the school's network, parents and guardians are responsible for filtering their child's access and monitoring their usage frequently.
2. Students in grades 4 - 6 are assigned a school email address so they can access emails from their teachers and participate in Google Classroom. Emails are owned by GCCS and therefore are subject to our policies in the GCCS Family Handbook and Caring Community Commitment Plan. Therefore, teachers and other associated GCCS staff have the ability to monitor use and students are responsible for using the email for school purposes only.
3. For the duration of our closure, students may be invited to view teacher-created YouTube Channels or other semi-public platforms (such as Zoom or Google Meets) to provide students with activities, challenges, and additional resources for learning. Since these applications offer an open platform for many users around the globe, GCCS advises families to be aware of the hazards and risks associated with a social media platform (such as YouTube) and should monitor child(ren)'s usage frequently.

Here are some tips for reducing risks and becoming more effective digital citizens:

1. Monitor your child's device usage frequently and only use the recommended links and applications for online learning.
2. When participating in a Zoom platform, do not use your student's full name for the account. Instead use first names and last initial or create a pseudo nickname so that is the visible identifier below the child's face.
3. Do not allow your child to participate in video conferencing when the background provides identifying information about your home address (i.e. Do not have your children conference on the front porch where a viewer may see your house number).
4. Please remember that some families have not signed photo releases and therefore please be careful to only post your own student's photos/videos using social media.

Additional Notes

If you are concerned about online usage, you have some additional options to provide you with more comfort such as turning the camera off during a video conference, calling by phone instead of joining the video meeting, or speaking to your teachers about alternatives to online instruction.

If families do not have wifi, please call Charter Spectrum to enroll in a free wifi program for students: 1-844-488-8395.

If students are using a GCCS device and it is in need of any internal or external repair, GCCS should be notified immediately to determine what needs to be fixed. Please email techsupport@gccschool.org or call 585-697-1960 for assistance.