

Octorara Area School District: Weather Related Remote Learning Plan

The Pennsylvania Department of Education's COVID-19 instructional time declaration allows school districts to count remote learning for instructional minutes during the 2020-2021 school year. This includes using remote learning, in the event of inclement weather, to ensure continuity of education and limit the need to add instructional days to the end of the academic calendar. As Octorara anticipates exhausting all of its snow make-up days and wishes to conclude the school year as scheduled on Wednesday, June 16, 2021, it will use the following remote learning plan to support instruction on any future inclement weather days once the remaining snow day has been exhausted. It's important to note that the district's weather related remote learning plan is different from the synchronous/ live remote learning plan currently in place for closures related to COVID-19.

1. The Octorara Area School District cannot guarantee that all learners will have access to the internet should inclement weather cause a power outage.
2. Snow days are often unplanned so students and teachers may not have the materials available at a moment's notice to engage in synchronous/live remote instruction.

Notification: All decisions related to using remote learning for weather closures will be communicated to staff and parents via the notification system for school closures and schedule changes.

Student Learning Activities: *All student learning activities will be asynchronous/independent.* Students are expected to complete assignments for all classes that would normally meet on the school day impacted by weather, as this will count as a typical cycle day. Younger students or students with accommodations may require support from an adult. Due to the unpredictability of inclement weather and the possibility of losing power or internet access, **all students will have three school days** to complete inclement weather remote learning activities. Teachers will be expected to follow these guidelines for assigning independent student learning activities:

1. If possible, teachers will provide an explanation and review of student learning activities prior to the inclement weather remote learning day. If this is not possible, all learning activities and explanations will be provided via Schoology, Google Classroom or Seesaw.

2. Student Learning Activities may include any of the following:

- a. Review prior learning;
- b. Reinforce prior learning;
- c. Enrich prior learning;
- d. New learning to be reinforced during the next live class meeting.

Access: Students will access the asynchronous/independent activities for the weather related remote learning day through Schoology, Google Classroom, or Seesaw. If a student is unable to access the internet, he/she may request a hard copy or offline access to the assigned learning activities upon return to the classroom.

Work Completion and Attendance: Students who do not complete the assignments within three school days for the designated weather related remote learning day **will be noted as absent for that day following the District's attendance policy.**

Teacher and Staff Availability: Teachers will be available for assistance via email or through the learning management system (Seesaw, Google classroom, or Schoology) from 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. during the weather related remote learning day. Principals, counselors, and nurses will also be available during these times.

-Frequently Asked Questions-

1. What if a student does not have access to a computer and/or internet to access the lesson or complete activities? **Answer:** If possible, the teacher will provide students with an offline version of the learning activities and assignments prior to the weather related remote learning day. However, if this is not possible, the teacher will provide students with the material upon return to the classroom during the next regular school day. Either way, students will have three days to complete the required learning activities and assignments.
2. Will elementary students have assignments and activities for their special classes such as music? **Answer:** Students will be expected to complete lessons for classes that are typically scheduled for that day to include specials in physical education, health, art, music, and STEM.
3. What happens if a student does not complete the assignments? **Answer:** OJSHS students may lose the point value or grade for the assignment. This loss of points could negatively impact a student's marking period grade. Each teacher weights learning activities and assignments differently. It would be in the best interest of the student to complete the assignments within the three day window. Students will be marked absent for work not completed. Elementary students may be lacking evidence of meeting the report card standards which may mean the difference between limited progress, steady progress, or meeting the report card standard. Elementary students will also be marked absent for work not completed.
4. What if a student is on a pre-arranged absence? **Answer:** The student is expected to make up the learning activities and assignments within three days of returning to school just as if it were any other absence from school.
5. How is a student expected to complete the activities if they go to daycare when school is cancelled? **Answer:** If the student cannot access the internet or take a paper-copy of the learning activities and assignments to the daycare to complete that day, the student will have three days to complete the activities.

6. How much time is my student expected to take to complete the assignments? **Answer:** Teachers have designed learning activities that are designed to review, reinforce, and enrich previous learning. Any new learning introduced on a weather related remote learning day will be reinforced during the next live class meeting. Students working independently on an assignment will likely take less time to complete the assignment compared to a large group setting. Teachers will make every effort to communicate an approximate time for each learning activity.

7. What if there is only one computer in the house but multiple students? **Answer:** Students may need to share resources in the home or other locations. Some students may want to work on offline options while others complete online learning activities. Students should use the district-assigned device which may help alleviate the demand on the home computer. Any student may request an offline version of the learning activities and assignments prior to the scheduled weather related remote learning day or on the first day after students return to school.

8. May a student access the learning activities or complete the online learning activities from their Smartphone? **Answer:** Schoology, Google Classroom and Seesaw can be accessed from a variety of tablets, smart phones, laptop and desktop computers. The assignments may use a variety of websites and applications that may or may not work from a variety of devices. In that event, students have three school days to complete the learning activities assigned and can do so when they have online access.