

REMOTE LEARNING

Core Practices for Hybrid and Remote Teaching and Learning

The Vestal Central School District's design of a hybrid model of teaching and learning aligns to the following practices:

- *Independent Learning:* Activities and resources will be designed to support students' independent practice and engagement. While the District values the important role parents, guardians, and caregivers play in a student's education, we recognize that they may not have the time or expertise to completely oversee all aspects of their students' independent learning.
- *Multiple Modes of Engagement:* Activities and resources will allow for varied means of engagement that include online and offline activities, and within online activities, accessibility that includes visual, video, audio, and text-to-speech. At the elementary level, especially for primary students (K-2), the District recognizes that paper and pencil activities can allow for young students to engage in independent practice because they lack the keyboard and technology skills to fully access digital resources.
- *Essential Learning:* Content will be scaled to address the core skills or essential concepts that can be achieved within the format of remote instruction and independent practice. Pacing of independent learning must be slower to allow for self-direction.
- *Support of the Whole Student:* Hybrid and remote learning will address the academic needs of each individual student within the context and conditions of their home environment and support network. This requires individualization of home learning to allow for differences in student situations, learning styles, access to technology, and social-emotional well-being. To this end, communication by teachers with students and families will allow for the monitoring of each student's academic, social, and emotional well-being.
- *Flexibility:* Essential to the success of hybrid and remote learning is to design learning and engagement in such a way that students feel capable of successfully completing the assignments and participating in remote activities.

Instructional Personnel

Coordination of hybrid and remote instruction will function at several levels with all members of the instructional community working together to provide for the academic, social, and emotional well-being of all students.

Instructional Personnel			
Role	Grades K-5	Grades 6-8	Grades 9-12
Primary Coordination	Building Grade-Level Teams	Grade-Level Content Area Teams	Department and Course-Level Faculty

Supporting Coordination	Special Education, AIS, Reading, Related Services, and ENL Faculty; Paraprofessionals		
Extension and Enrichment	Art, Music, Library, Physical Education Faculty; Clubs and Co-Curricular Advisors		
Student and Family Outreach and Support	Counselors, Social Worker, Psychologists, Administrators, Nurses, School Resource Officers		
Building-Wide Coordination	Principal	Principal and Assistant Principals	Principal, Assistant Principals, Dean of Students
Program-Wide Coordination	Directors of Instruction, Director of Special Education, Assistant Director of Special Education, Director of Athletics, K-12 Department Chairs, Literacy and Math Specialists		
District-Wide Coordination	Assistant Superintendents, Superintendent		

Students with Disabilities

The Vestal Special Education Department has established procedures and processes to maintain continuity of learning and ensure a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) for all students with disabilities within the parameters of in-person, remote, and hybrid instructional models.

- Contingency plans will be in place under a remote or hybrid model of instruction.
- Contingency services will match, to the greatest extent possible, all services as outlined in the current IEPs/504s.
- Teletherapy services will be employed for related services via a secured platform whenever appropriate.
- Parents will receive written communication from the Special Education Office notifying them of changes consistent with the Contingency Plan of Service Delivery.
- When in-person evaluations are not possible, they will be conducted remotely whenever appropriate given the student’s circumstance.
- Prior Written Notice will continue to be provided whether in-person, hybrid, or remote models of instruction are in place.
- Committees on Special Education (CSE) and Committees on Preschool Special Education (CPSE) will continue to meet whenever necessary through video-conferencing.

Finally, in order to meet the unique disability related needs of students, the District has established protocols to ensure access to curriculum and instruction, including:

- Student IEPs/504s will be reviewed by the designated "case manager" with all necessary staff to ensure staff understanding of identified accommodations, modifications, supplementary aids/services, and technology needs within the IEP/504.

- "Case managers" will be in communication with parents regarding specific materials, tools, devices, etc. that students will require in order to access instruction during remote learning.

Materials, tools, devices, etc. that the student does not have access to during remote learning and are necessary for the student to access instruction will be provided to the student in order to ensure uninterrupted opportunities for growth.

Technology and Connectivity

The Vestal School District recognizes that access to technology and our students' ability to use that technology to enhance their learning and social and emotional development will be essential in all phases of school reopening and for all future learning in the years to come. To this end, the district has committed resources to device and software acquisition, professional learning, and curriculum design. This will allow us to prepare for all phases of instruction in the coming year and moving forward into future years. Surveying of families and students indicated the following key areas of focus:

- Students need explicit instruction in the use of technology for learning. This involves (1) learning how to participate in synchronous, video conference activities; (2) being able to submit and share assignments and projects; (3) using online platforms to create and generate projects incorporating multi-media; (4) the ability to evaluate the authenticity and validity of online sources; (5) practicing strong models of digital citizenship and safety to ensure their "digital footprint" will advance rather than undermine their personal and academic development.
- Parents need explicit instruction in the District's software, applications, and devices in order to support and participate in their student's learning.
- Students also need offline and print materials. The District recognizes that families have different levels of technology access and connectivity. Further, parents and guardians have conveyed through surveying that print materials can allow for greater flexibility for work completion at home. To this end, the District has evaluated its curriculum and developed plans for distributing printed curriculum guides. Further, math manipulatives, art resources, and musical instruments will be made accessible for home use.

Vestal 1:1 Technology Initiative

The District has a comprehensive plan to issue a Chromebook to every student in grades 2 through 12. Students may also choose to use their own personal Chromebook or laptop. In Kindergarten and grade 1, students will be issued an iPad. This 1:1 initiative will require students to bring their devices when attending school.

Access

The District will ensure equitable access to technology and devices through the steps outlined below. All information related to technology and connectivity will be maintained on the District website and communicated to families by way of School Messenger and email. Additionally, at each building, family contacts will be monitored and phone calls and home visits will be made for families who do not respond to or participate in outreach through digital media.

- Devices: The District will make available to all students 1:1 devices.
- Connectivity: The District will establish locations within the District for students and faculty to access high-speed internet.

Digital Learning Resources

Using digital resources, students can participate in learning in both in-person and remote environments. These digital tools provide communication platforms that support a range of instructional needs and practices. Certain platforms such as Google Classroom, Seesaw, and Schoology allow students to submit work to their teachers, as well as collaborate among their peers, fostering multiple pathways for communication. Video-conferencing technologies such as Zoom and Google Meet allow for synchronous participation. Online databases foster a connection between activities at home and learning at school by providing students with digital resources in the areas of literacy, math, science, and social studies.

Learning Resources	Users	Functionality	Accessibility
Google for Education (G Suite)	K-12 Faculty, Students, and Administration	<p>Google for Education is a suite of tools (G Suite) that includes Classroom, Meet, Drive, Docs, Slides, Sheets, Forms and Sites.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Google Classroom is a web tool that enables teachers to simplify creating, distributing, and grading assignments. The primary purpose of Google Classroom is to streamline the process of sharing files between teachers and students. • Meet is a video-conferencing component of G Suite. • Drive is a file storage system where documents, spreadsheets, and presentations are housed. • Docs, Slides, and Sheets are tools that facilitate collaboration. • Forms is a tool to create and analyze survey information. • Sites is a structured webpage creation tool. 	<p>Classroom: -Screen reader</p> <p>Meet: -Screen reader -Keyboard shortcuts</p> <p>Drive: -Screen reader -Keyboard shortcuts</p> <p>Docs: -Screen reader -Keyboard Shortcuts -Braille display -Type with voice</p> <p>Slides: -Screen reader -Keyboard Shortcuts -Braille display -Add caption tracks</p> <p>Sheets: -Screen reader -Keyboard</p> <p>Forms: -Screen reader -Keyboard</p> <p>Sites: -Screen reader -Keyboard</p>

Zoom	K-12 Faculty and Administration	<p>Zoom is a video-conferencing application that operates across many platforms. Zoom serves as a management tool and an instructional tool.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virtual Classrooms and Meetings: Zoom allows for synchronous interactivity among groups of students in real time or can be recorded for asynchronous instruction. • Professional Meetings: Zoom allows for seamless communication among critical personnel necessary to facilitate home learning and the Continuity of Learning plan. • Emergency Management Coordination: Zoom meetings support coordination of emergency management teams. 	Text-to-Speech, Video
Seesaw	K-2 Faculty, Students, and Administration	<p>Seesaw is a student-driven digital portfolio platform. Students show learning using built-in annotation tools to capture what they know in Seesaw’s digital portfolio. Students explore a variety of tools. Teachers gain insights into student thinking and progress, enabling them to teach better. They can see student work in real time. Families can better access their student’s learning and engage with school happenings.</p>	<p>Translation into over 55 languages</p> <p>Video Pictures Voice recording Text</p>
Eureka Math	K-12 Students, K-12 Faculty	<p>Eureka Math provides daily instructional videos on each lesson in a grade level scope and sequence.</p> <p>https://tinyurl.com/yytz7w4l</p>	Video
Zearn	K-5 Students, K-5 Faculty	<p>Zearn is a K-5 digital math platform based on Eureka Math’s EngageNY curriculum. It has materials for teacher-led and digital instruction and is a comprehensive guide designed to support deep understanding that makes math engaging and accessible for all learners. It contains rigorous content that ensures a balance of procedural fluency, conceptual understanding, and application work. Concrete and pictorial representations help students make meaning of problems and unlock abstract reasoning. Personalized remediation paths exist to support learning. Precise feedback delivered to students in the moment helps to continue learning. A mix of modalities provide students multiple ways of acquiring knowledge, showing understanding, and engaging in learning. Diverse on-screen teachers and students ensure all students see someone similar to themselves doing math.</p> <p>https://www.zearn.org/</p>	Text-to-Speech Visual Representations
eDoctrina	6-12 Students, 6-12 Faculty	<p>eDoctrina is web-based K-12 education software that helps educators: (1) prioritize state standards, (2) create curriculum maps and standards-based lesson/unit plans,</p>	

		(3) build standards-based paper and online assessments, (4) print answer sheets, (5) scan assessment results, and (6) analyze trends and patterns in student performance data. https://www.edoctrina.org/	
SplashMath	K-2 Students, K-2 Faculty	SplashMath is an engaging, comprehensive program aligned to the math curriculum that utilizes a personalized learning path for students. Questions are read aloud for students and can be used on many devices such as an iPad, iPhone, iPod, Laptop, and PC, along with on-the-go offline access with an iPad, iPhone, and iPod apps. https://www.splashlearn.com/	Text-to-Speech Visual representations
Raz Kids	K-5 Students and Faculty	Raz Kids is a K-5 literacy program that provides core instruction and intervention support. It is used by general education teachers for first instruction and by special education and reading teachers for intervention and specially designed instruction.	Text-to-Speech Video
Scholastic Learn-at-Home	K-9 Students and Faculty	Scholastic Learn-at-Home assists students in grades pre-K through 9 in accessing articles and stories to read at home. There are four articles to choose from each day, allowing for student choice based on individual interests. Each article offers two different reading levels, as well as a “text-to-speech” feature, making it possible for students at all reading levels to access grade level content. In addition, each article is connected to the NYS reading and writing standards and has links to connect to enrichment activities in other content areas, including math and science. https://classroommagazines.scholastic.com/support/learnat-home.html	Text-to-Speech Video
Epic Online Digital Library	K-6 Students and Family	Epic online digital library provides a large selection of online texts and related activities for instructional use and independent reading. https://www.getepic.com/	Text-to-Speech Video
Audio and Digital Books	K-12 Students, K-12 Faculty	Students and faculty have access to a wide range of audio and digital books that can be read independently or as part of course or classroom assignments. These resources are listed on the District emergency website with login and access information: Abdo Digital Bookshelf , Audible Audiobooks , Junior Library Guild Ebooks , Sebco Ebooks , VMS Follett Shelf Audiobooks , VMS Follett Shelf 2 Audiobooks , TeenBookCloud , MackinVIA , World eBook , Epointplus Books , ManyBooks-YA , Loyal Books .	Text-to-Speech Video
Digital Databases	K-12 Students, K-12 Faculty	The Vestal School District has student and faculty access to information databases to support independent and home learning. These resources are listed on the emergency	Text-to-Speech Video

		website: BrainPop , Britannica Middle School , World Book Science Power , World Book Social Studies Power , World Book Online Advanced , Sports Champs , World Mythology , Defining Moments in US History , Countries & Cultures , Science & Technology , American History , US & World Biography , Shapers of Society , Essential Information , FactCite .	
Online Magazines	K-12 Students, K-12 Faculty	Websites and online resources are posted on the District website for access by faculty, students, and families to support independent learning and teacher-directed activities. https://classroommagazines.scholastic.com/ https://www.sikids.com/ https://online.kidsdiscover.com/ https://www.tweentribune.com/ http://mag.amazing-kids.org/	Text-to-Speech Video
PBS Instructional Programing	K-12 Students, K-12 Faculty	The regional PBS station offers televised and online resources for access through cable or the internet: https://wskg.org/education/wskg-learn-at-home/	Video
Print Resources	K-5 Students	Print resources are developed and distributed as needed to support independent, offline skill review and practice in ELA and math. These are available on the District website for home printing and use.	
Social Studies Online Resources	K-5 Students and Faculty	Websites and online resources are posted on the District website for access by faculty, students, and families to support independent learning and teacher-directed activities.	Text-to-Speech Video
Science Online Resources	K-5 Students and Faculty	Websites and online resources are posted on the District website for access by faculty, students, and families to support independent learning and teacher-directed activities.	Text-to-Speech Video

Management Systems for Instruction

Home learning will rely upon several key management systems for the development, distribution, and supervision of hybrid and remote learning activities for continuity of instruction.

Management Systems for Instruction	Users	Functionality
Google Suite for Education (Vestal Domain)	Faculty, Administration	G Suite is a suite of cloud computing, productivity and collaboration tools, software, and products. G Suite comprises Gmail, Hangouts, Calendar, and Currents for communication; Drive for storage; Docs, Sheets, Slides, Keep, Forms, and Sites for productivity and collaboration.
Google Classroom (Vestal Domain)	K-12 Students, Faculty, Administration	<p>Google Classroom is a cloud-based environment to streamline the process of sharing files between teachers and students.</p> <p>Google Classroom combines Google Drive for assignment creation and distribution, Google Docs, Sheets and Slides for writing, Gmail for communication, and Google Calendar for scheduling. Students can be invited to join a class through a private code, or automatically imported from a school domain. Each class creates a separate folder in the respective user's Drive, where the student can submit work to be graded by a teacher. Mobile apps, available for iOS and Android devices, let users take photos and attach to assignments, share files from other apps, and access information offline. Teachers can monitor the progress for each student and, after being graded, teachers can return work along with feedback.</p>
Schoology	9-12 Students, Faculty, Administration	Schoology is a social networking service and virtual learning environment for K-12 school and higher education institutions that allows users to create, manage, and share academic content. Schoology is a cloud-based platform that provides tools needed to manage an online classroom. Schoology can help teachers contact students with homework and more. They can post daily reminders or updates. They can message students, manage the assignment calendar, and add new assignments.
Seesaw	K-2 Students, Faculty, Administration	Seesaw is a platform for student engagement that allows for a digital portfolio. Teachers can empower students to create, reflect, share, and collaborate. Students are able to “show what they know” using creative tools (photos, videos, drawings, text, PDFs, and links). Student work is housed in one place and can be shared with families.