



Social/Emotional

1. My child didn't get to connect with their peers in the spring - more virtual times.

We understand that your child's connections to their peers is very important and has become even more critical as we've been distanced from one another. This fall we will have increased scheduled times for classes to connect socially, virtual clubs and extracurricular activities, and we are looking into socially-distanced in-person options.

2. Our children need to be back in school with their class.

We agree and are hoping to be back in our physical classrooms soon. During DL, we are working to develop more social times and interactions with peers, so they continue to feel connected to their classmates. In addition, teachers will have access to teach from their classrooms, using a device that will allow them to stream and/or record their lessons from the classroom. If parents continue to request DL after we open for in-person learning, please contact your child's teacher.

3. It was hard to get the child to be engaged to do the school work and understand why we were doing school this way.

We are hoping that the additional meeting times with both peers and adults, will help with your child's sense of engagement. Teachers and social support staff will also connect with students to help them understand the purpose and timeline of DL.

Academic

1. My child didn't get to see their teacher much in the spring/needs one-one help.

This fall we will have more scheduled times for classes to connect with the teacher, times for the teacher to connect one-on-one with students, and specialist teachers and paraprofessional times also scheduled with students and small groups to increase connections to the adults in the building. Each teacher will be required to hold open office hours to meet these needs.

2. We came to STRIDE for Barton (Special education, Title I, speech, etc.); we didn't get any help in the spring.

Services that students qualify for should and will continue even in DL, even if the format may change a bit in DL. If you didn't get these services, please let us know and we will look into it. We have been working hard with our staff to make sure that students continue to receive the same services with the same or similar frequency as if they were in-person.

3. I would have liked to see more actual class curriculum, not just “fun” stuff.

We continue to work with our Journeys reading and GoMath curriculums, and these resources, along with other educational programs that may be used, will be implemented in both whole group and individual student instruction. Using Zoom, staff can also create small breakout rooms to have discussions and get more individualized help. Our DL plan for this fall will be rigorous and more refined than it was in the spring semester, which integrates science and social studies in the curriculum along with language arts and math in a daily schedule. Staff will be receiving additional professional development for 2 weeks in August to ensure an excellent live remote learning experience for our students.

4. It would be nice to have consistency across grade levels, easier for the parents to understand.

We are working to ensure that both teachers and families will have clearer expectations and explanations around the use of learning platforms, which will include “tech support” for families in getting acclimated and connected to the devices and programs. K-4 will use Seesaw and Zoom, and Grades 5-8 will use Google Classroom and Zoom.

5. It has to be easy and straightforward enough for students to do it on their own.

Self-directed activities will be a part of the work students have at home. There may be activities that require help from an adult, and we are working to clarify when and how that would be needed in the instructions given for the activity. It will also help students to be able to access teacher help during “office hours” set by teachers if/when they have questions, in addition to having access to “tech support.”

Technology

1. We only had a phone to connect to the internet; it was hard to participate in that way.

This fall, we will be issuing devices to students who need one to use at home. If your WiFi or internet connection at home does not support multiple devices streaming on multiple devices, please let us know and we can work together to get you help.

2. We don't have (great) internet access at home.

If your WiFi or internet connection at home does not support multiple devices streaming on multiple devices, please let us know and we can work together to get you help.

3. We didn't know how to get on to [Seesaw, Google Classroom, etc].

We are working to ensure that both teachers and families will have clearer expectations and explanations around the use of learning platforms, which will include “tech support” for families in getting acclimated and connected to the devices and programs. We are also working to keep our programs used to an easy-to-follow list.

4. There were so many programs we had to learn.

We are also working to keep our programs used to an easy-to-follow list.

General

1. I don't think DL should be a permanent thing.

We couldn't agree more. We miss seeing students more than we miss mask-less living. Our School COVID Task Force will continue to revisit our plan and we will update families before the beginning of the next trimester about our plans for the second trimester.

2. DL was hard for working parents. It was hard to maintain a work schedule and school.

It sure is. We can't thank you all enough for the hard work you put in to helping the students understand the lessons and do work at home. With more adult help from school, clearer expectations for students/families/staff, more technology and internet access, and connections to peers, we are hoping this fall will feel a little easier than in the spring. We will do our best to meet the scheduling needs of students and families.

3. Students learn better face-to-face.

We cannot wait to be able to have in-person learning safely, In the interim, we will have more scheduled times for classes to connect with the teacher including daily live instruction in reading and math, times for the teacher to connect one-on-one with students, and specialist teachers and paraprofessional times also scheduled with students and small groups to increase connections to the adults in the building. Each teacher will be required to hold open office hours to meet these needs. The school will be reviewing the status of the Learning plan.

4. Parents/Guardians want to be able to communicate easier with teachers.

Teachers will have individual meetings with families prior to school starting to set individual communication preferences with parents/guardians and clarify times the teachers are available for office hours and email.

5. Will Kidstop be available for families?

Kidstop will be available at Athlos Academy. You can contact them at 320-252-7616.

6. Can lunches be picked up at school during distance learning?

Yes, and they can be picked up for a week at a time if you let the school know of your preference.

7. When will you have a decision made on Trimester 2, if we will be back in person, a hybrid, or continuing distance learning?

We will be deciding and communicating to families no later than November 20, 2020 (after our November 19 board meeting).