

# COVID-19 SCHOOL CLOSURE FAQ #2



## Q – Did I miss the opportunity to pick up my child’s iPad/laptop?

A – No. Each elementary student should have an iPad, and each secondary student should have a laptop. Contact the District Technology Department at (717) 721-1463 to arrange pick-up.

## Q – Is this work required?

A – Yes. Beginning on Tuesday, April 14, students will be expected to complete remote learning activities assigned by their teachers.

## Q – What if our unique home situation makes it nearly impossible for my son/daughter to complete assigned work every day?

A – If any parent/guardian believes his/her child has extenuating circumstances that make it unreasonable for the child to complete the 2-3 hours of online learning each day, the parent should reach out to the building principal to discuss the conditions for opting out of the online learning program. In general, situations where students are being asked to work in an essential industry or to care for multiple siblings while parents work are the types of situations in which an opt-out will be considered. We want to be flexible in situations when asking students to engage in online learning is too much, so please reach out to building administration to help us accommodate those needs.

Students in grades K-4 will continue to receive feedback upon completed work. Parents of students who are not completing their work will be contacted to offer support and identify why work is not being completed. As long as the student was on pace at the end of the 3rd marking period to progress to the next grade-level, he/she will continue on that path.

## Q – Will grades be given?

A – Yes, for the 4th marking period. Beginning on Tuesday April 14, teachers will evaluate if work is completed or not. Teachers will keep track of the completion status of all assignments for the rest of the 4<sup>th</sup> marking period. Students will be able to complete assignments that were not submitted or submitted and incomplete until the end of the week following the assignment to receive credit.

At the end of the marking period, the teacher will calculate the number of completed assignments out of the total number of assignments to calculate an average that will serve as the grade for the 4<sup>th</sup> marking period. Final grades for year-long courses will be identified by calculating the average of all four marking periods. ***Essentially, students who complete all of the assigned work starting April 14 through the remainder of the school year will have earned a 100% to average with their first three marking periods when calculating final grades for the year.***

**Q – Will “attendance” and participation be tracked?**

A – Attendance will be logged based on the number of days that students complete work. We believe it is important for students to engage in learning each day, but if a student’s schedule prohibits that from happening, attendance is determined by the amount of work that is completed. For example, if a student completed three days of work, the student is marked as attending for three days.

**Q – Is the District aware when a technology tool, like Schoology or SeeSaw, is having issues?**

A – Yes. We understand the frustrations associated with the recent malfunctions of online platforms that have been overloaded from higher-than-usual usage. We expect this to subside, as these online learning providers are taking necessary steps to make improvements. Please be patient with us and feel free to reach out to your teacher or school principal if a different mode of communication is needed in the meantime.

**Q – My child gets blocked by “Smoothwall” while using a District device. What should we do?**

A – All District devices are filtered using a software program called Smoothwall. The design of this software is to protect students from accessing inappropriate content on the Internet. Students may be asked to sign into Smoothwall periodically. [CLICK HERE FOR SMOOTHWALL DIRECTIONS](#). The Smoothwall filter is not perfect. Parents and guardians are asked to supervise students’ use and are encouraged to set up household rules, including times of access. If you are having technology problems with your device, call 717-721-1451 or email [support@easdpa.org](mailto:support@easdpa.org). Phone and email messages will be responded to within 48 hours of receipt.

**Q – Is it a problem that our family schedule does not allow my child(ren) to do work during traditional school hours?**

A – No. We understand families may be balancing many other things in addition to online learning activities. We suggest structuring the day in a way that fits your home situation. If your child is unable to participate in weekly virtual meetings with his/her class, please communicate with the teacher so alternative options can be arranged. Finally, we recognize balancing student work time online with other healthy activities during this closure is important as well.

**Q – Is there any additional information for seniors on Hibshman Scholarships?**

A – We are working on how we will conduct the Hibshman Scholarship interviews. We will most likely be doing this through a virtual platform, and details will be sent once determined.

**Q – Are there additional learning activities beyond what my teacher is sending?**

A – Yes. A variety of additional online learning activities are posted [HERE](#) and available on the District website.

**Q – Could activities and meeting times be posted earlier in the morning or the night before?**

A – As a general rule, teachers are posting daily work and assignments at the normal start of the school day, but if an adjustment to this practice is needed to accommodate extenuating circumstances at home, please reach out to the teacher for assistance.

**Q – What about security concerns associated with online conferencing platforms, including Zoom?**

A – Zoom is a meeting tool used during this time of distance to allow live connections between teachers and students. Teachers have been informed of best practices to ensure a safe and secure virtual meeting space for our students. Students are NOT encouraged to make accounts for Zoom. No account is needed to participate in a meeting; therefore, Zoom has no access to personally identifiable student information.

**Q – Where can we easily obtain usernames and passwords?**

A – Students should know their username and password. This is the account they use to sign into computers. A student who forgets his or her username, email address, or password should contact technology support at support@easdpa.org or 717-721-1451.

**Q - What will happen with AP Exams?**

A – The College Board has been sending information directly to students about the AP Exams and how they will be conducted virtually. The exams will be a shortened version and will mostly be comprised of content that was covered up to the closure. Ephrata High School guidance counselor Mrs. Davies will continue to send information about AP Exams through Schoology. If you are not getting this information, please email Dr. Galen at Scott\_Galen@easdpa.org. Information about the AP Exams can be found [HERE](#). Additionally, a list of the testing dates can be found [HERE](#).

**Q - What will happen with the Life Ready Graduate (LRG) certificate program for seniors?**

A – The LRG Certificate program is still operating and will be awarded to graduating seniors who meet the criteria. This is a great time for students to complete the online Civics or Financial Literacy courses if they have not already done so. If students were on the roster for a spring extracurricular activity, they will be given credit for participation. EHS students should message their guidance counselor or contact the building principal if they have questions about their status.

**Q - What should students be doing if they were enrolled in the internship program?**

A – Ephrata High School internship coordinator Mrs. Myers is working on organizing and analyzing the hours students have completed and submitted. If students did not start an internship as scheduled, it will be removed from the student’s schedule. If a student started the internship but did not complete the hours, Mrs. Myers will be in touch with those students through Schoology.

**Q - Is there somewhere I can go to access WiFi if it is not available in my home?**

A – To help provide WiFi to families who do not have Internet access from their homes, each EASD school now has a Free WiFi Zone. Families will be able to access free Internet at the following locations, which have been marked with cones onsite and indicated by clicking on the school names below.

- [Akron Elementary School](#)
- [Clay Elementary School](#)
- [Highland Elementary School](#)
- [Fulton Elementary School](#)
- [Ephrata Intermediate/Middle School](#)
- [Ephrata High School](#)
- [EHS@Washington](#)

**Please continue to adhere to all social distancing guidelines while learning within these zones.**