

3/16/2020

Dear OHDELA Community,

On Friday we communicated that today, Monday 3/16 would be an instructional day as usual, but that we were awaiting additional guidance about Tuesday 3/17 and beyond. Over the weekend the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) provided an [FAQ document](#) with additional guidance regarding e-school programming during the school closure period. We are extremely happy to share that **computer based schools will continue operations in their normal fashion according to their regular calendar.** ODE has also noted that there should be limited impact on minimum instructional hours provided. Given this, **we are asking that your student maintain his or her usual school day routine as much as possible, working to complete instructional opportunities each day through a combination of work completed online** (iXL, iReady, course work, live session attendance, google assignments) **and work completed offline and submitted via the offline tracker in each course** (reading, brainstorming for writing activities, physical activity for PE, flashcard practice, etc...).

***Remember - Monday 3/23 through Friday 3/27 is OHDELA's Spring Break. While you will have access to your online courses there will be no live instructional sessions and no teacher availability. This is a great opportunity to catch up on missed work and bring up any low course grades.***

### **State Testing**

The current guidance is that no testing is to occur during the current closure period (now through April 3rd) and that ODE will take appropriate action to adjust the state's testing schedule (both in terms of administration and reporting) to accommodate the three-week closure. The intention is to be as flexible as possible. ODE will be asking the U.S. Department of Education for the maximum flexibility in accommodating the current circumstances. At this time OHDELA is re-evaluating the school testing schedule. We will be providing more information in the very near future. It's important that we allow ODE the time to work through planning around items like this and others in the coming weeks.

We know that these are challenging times, and it will require even more effort than usual to maintain a consistent routine of learning. Below, please find some information we hope will be helpful as you navigate the next few weeks.

### **Instructional Program and Schedule week of 3/16/2020 and 3/30/2020**

Follow the daily schedule you have established for learning. If you have not yet established a schedule, or have not been maintaining your schedule this is a good time to revisit your plan and reset expectations.

- Check the homepage and announcements for **each course** each morning to make sure you understand what work is expected for the day.

- Your student will have opportunities for Live Conference Sessions each day. Your student will also have asynchronous expectations each day in Canvas. Each of your student's courses will have the learning opportunities clearly outlined both on the homepage and within the modules.
- Should your student not be able to attend the live class, do not worry, recordings of the session are posted promptly. It is expected that your student view the recording and use the instruction to complete assignments and quizzes.
  - **\*Tip\***: After watching the recording, have your student complete their assignment. Leave the recording up to help complete the assignment, your student can press "pause" or rewind/fast forward and complete portions of the assignment at any time.
- Together, spend time in the morning reading through the daily expectations. We recommend discussing:
  - The start times and duration of all live classes for the day.
  - The lesson pages (modules) that should be read and studied for the day.
  - Google Assignments, projects or quizzes that need completed for the day.
  - Curricular resource time for the day such as: IXL, iReady, Newsela, etc.
- Remember to review the offline time expectations each teacher has provided and don't forget to submit that time via the offline tracker as you complete it.
- Don't forget--all teachers have their contact information posted on their homepage. If you are confused or need help, they are one call or email away!
- Make sure your child has a distraction free space to work and has all needed supplies for the day nearby.
- Build in times for snack, lunch and physical movement – this will ensure your child can focus during learning time. Remember to submit that physical activity time within your PE course!

**\*Reminder - week of 3/23 is Spring Break! No live sessions or teacher availability - catch up on missed work and bring up low grades! Go back and submit any offline time you've not yet submitted for the semester.**

### **Special Education**

Be reminded that services outlined on your child's IEP are required and will be continued during this time. Please be sure to include these scheduled sessions as you address your daily priorities. This includes all related service sessions your child may be scheduled for. Please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's intervention specialist if you have any questions or concerns regarding services and supports as outlined in their IEP.

## **Technology**

Given the increased use of online learning platforms and web/video conferencing tools across the nation many people are seeing impacts to the speed and consistency of internet services and to the performance of certain online tools. Our support teams will continue to be available to you via the established methods. We ask that you are patient as we work to respond to needs and ensure each student can continue learning. For fastest response please visit <https://help.ohdela.com/> and chat with support via the chat widget at the bottom of the page.

Additionally, please review the below list of Internet Service Providers and special upgrades or discounts they are providing during this period.

### **Internet Service Provider Offers**

#### **Altice – [Click Here](#)**

The company is offering its Altice Advantage 30 Mbps broadband service free for 60 days to any new residential customer currently without internet access. According to the FCC, 25Mbps and above classifies as high-speed.

#### **AT&T – [Click Here](#)**

The Company says it will suspend data caps for its fixed internet service. It also offers a \$10-a-month Access From AT&T program for qualifying low-income households [found here](#).

#### **Charter Spectrum – [Click Here](#)**

The ISP will offer free Spectrum broadband and WiFi access for 60 days to households with students in kindergarten through 12th grade or college students who don't already have a Spectrum broadband subscription at any service level up to 100 Mbps. The installation fees will be waived for new student households. To enroll, call 844-488-8395. For eligible low-income households without school-age children, Charter offers Spectrum Internet Assist, a low-cost broadband program delivering speeds of 30 Mbps. Spectrum doesn't have data caps or hidden fees.

**Comcast – [Click Here](#)** Comcast will offer new residential customers who qualify its \$9.95-per-month Internet Essentials program free for 60 days. The company says it will boost its internet service speeds from 15/2 Mbps to 25/3 Mbps, which qualifies the service as high-speed broadband under FCC guidelines. Comcast will also suspend data caps for 60 days and refrain from disconnecting service or charging late fees for customers who contact the company regarding overdue payments.

#### **Cox Internet – [Click Here](#)**

Starting Monday, new customers can receive a free month of internet service in the company's Connect2Compete plan, available to qualified low-income households for \$9.95 a month. The company is also fast-tracking the application process to get families connected more quickly. Cox will make its Complete Care support program free to all residential customers who have technical issues or need assistance installing features like education software or teleconferencing. The

company is going to increase internet speeds from 25/3 Mbps to 50/3 Mbps for 60 days for the Starter, StraightUp Internet, and Connect2Compete packages, and speed up the implementation of a 50Mbps upgrade for users of Cox's Essentials service. That upgrade had been scheduled for later in the year.

**T-Mobile** – [Click Here](#)

The company has no data cap for its home internet service. All current T-Mobile and Metro by T-Mobile wireless customers who have cell-phone plans with data will be granted unlimited smartphone data for the next 60 days (excluding roaming). They'll also receive an additional 20GB of mobile hot spot/tethering service for those two months. The company is working to provide Lifeline low-income customers with up to 5GB of free data per month over the next two months.

**Verizon**

The company recently increased speeds at no extra cost on some mid-tier FIOS services, bumping the 100 Mbps tier to 200 Mbps and the 200 Mbps tier to 300 Mbps. The company reports that it places no data caps on its home internet broadband services. Verizon also offers a low-cost Lifeline plan for qualified families.

**Wellbeing**

If you or your child are feeling worried or restless during this complicated period- please remember that OHDELA's Social Worker, Ashley Sees [axsees01@delak12.com](mailto:axsees01@delak12.com) and Guidance Counselor, Christine Hafer [cehafer@delak12.com](mailto:cehafer@delak12.com), are here to help! We will be sharing some self-care tips for students and families shortly.