



Family Update

Distance Learning – Week Five

April 19, 2020

Happy Sunday Newport Parents and Families!

We hope that you have enjoyed a long weekend with your families and have had an opportunity to relax! Tomorrow begins Week Five of Distance Learning. Thank you to all that completed our most recent family survey. Your feedback is important to us as we continue to adjust the Distance Learning experience.

The Week Three survey showed us:

Schools	Pell	TMS	RHS
Heard from teachers 5 or more times per week	69%	40%	41%
Families sharing overall positive experience	57%	71%	65%

76% shared their students were engaged with the assignments

Parents appreciated the most:

- Teacher’s being responsive to student questions
- Teachers put in great effort towards navigating this new format
- Good balance between assignments and lessons
- Students enjoy the variety and choice with assignments
- Face time through Video Conferencing

What we heard	How are we addressing this or what are we working towards
Looking at how other states are handling the distance learning parents are impressed. “ I am very very impressed with how well our child’s learning is being handled and provided for! Thank you for all of the hard work and dedication!!”	As we complete Week 4 of Distance Learning, the Governor has shared that RI is a model for other states. The feedback around the State has been very impressive and particularly how quickly RI districts have moved to support students and families with distance learning. Both the Governor and the Commissioner of Education believe RI is leading the country in distance learning.



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<p>Overwhelming amounts of work</p>	<p>In the coming weeks we will be reviewing work completion and assessing the amount of work being assigned. Everyone is trying to find that balance between too much and not enough work. Recently RIDE provided a Guide to Distance Learning to the school districts, which is posted on our website click here. In this guide, the suggested number of hours of screen time per day is 1-2 hours for our younger students and 3-4 hours for our older students. It also highlighted that students, even high performing students, will usually take longer completing assignments online.</p>
<p>Students missing their classmates and teachers</p>	<p>Each teacher is learning and perfecting how they are interacting with students. We know how valuable face time is for our students to have an opportunity to interact with their teacher and share time with their classmates. On Friday, April 17, teachers participated in the 2nd professional development day to support increasing video conferencing and instructional strategies with distance learning. All our teachers are in different places with this learning, and it is a “work in progress” as more and more become comfortable using these tools. You should expect to see more interaction in the coming weeks.</p>
<p>Parents are asking for help with students who are struggling with focus and attention.</p>	<p>We know that sitting for extended periods of time is difficult and on a typical day students have movement breaks. Please be sure to set realistic times for students and build in some fun break times. We have put together some fun links for movement and relaxation. https://www.npsri.net/resources</p> <p>Students or parents of students with IEP services should reach out directly to their case managers if they need any additional supports or accommodations. If you are not sure who your case manager is, you can contact the special education coordinator at your school to find out:</p> <p>Preschool, Nichole Bussiere Nicholebussiere@npsri.net Pell, Colleen Crotteau colleencrotteau@npsri.net</p>



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	<p>TMS, Holly Hebert hollyhebert@npsri.net RHS, Tracey Hackley thackley@npsri.net</p>
<p>Many parents are sharing that they are not experiencing any technology issues. We do have some families who shared that they still need technology supports. This includes if you need a Hot Spot (jet pack), your child is having difficulty maintaining connectivity or your child cannot remember his/her password.</p>	<p>If you are experiencing any technical issues, please contact the IT Help Desk at helpdesk@npsri.net for support. Some tickets submitted to the IT Help Desk have been blocked by the Google SPAM filter and have not reached the IT Help Desk. The IT Team has put a new process in place to check for tickets in SPAM to prevent this from reoccurring; however, it is possible that it may happen again with unknown email addresses. If you submit a ticket and do not receive response within 24 hours, please contact the IT Help Desk directly at (800) 253-7122.</p> <p>A Spanish Technology Help number has been established that families can call for help. Please call 1-800-735-1775 and leave a message stating the problem, and a Spanish speaking engineer will call you back.</p>

Although there is not a formal survey provided this week, please know that if you need anything or have questions you should reach out to your building principal, your child’s teacher or this office at 619-5376. Please stay safe - wear your masks, wash your hands often, and continue to maintain social distancing!

Have a wonderful week!

Colleen Burns Jermain, Ed. D.
 Superintendent of Newport Public Schools