



## **Distance Learning Begins on April 14, 2020**

With the guidance of health officials and in coordination with the other local school districts, Golden Valley Charter Schools has made the decision to extend campus closures for the duration of the 19/20 school year. While our original goal was to re-open schools after spring break, it has become clear that the best way to help stop the spread of COVID-19 in our community is to extend our campus closures and transition to distance learning.

The faculty and administration at Golden Valley Charter Schools are working hard to continue our uniquely social education remotely. Nearly every day this past week our faculty have met remotely to review the responses of other schools, learn about online platforms, and discuss our plan. This communication will provide an outline of the Golden Valley Charter Schools distance learning plan during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Important Dates:**

**Weeks of March 16, 23, and 30:** No instruction is being provided during our campus closures. However, enrichment opportunities and resources have been provided by class teachers to support practicing skills and alternate learning at home. This has allowed adequate time for families to adjust to the major shift in routines demanded by social distancing and teachers to transition their curriculum to a distance learning model.

**Friday, April 3:** Golden Valley Charter Schools Distance Learning Plan is shared with families.

**April 13:** Teachers will send instructions via Parent Square for distance learning at their grade level.

### **April 14: Distance Learning begins**

- **Supplies for students at River and Orchard will be available between 9-2pm. Supply pick-up will be at the loop. Please refer to Parent Square post for details. We will deliver to your car. (Supplies for Tahoe have gone out already).**



The faculty agreed that the platforms and tools we use for distance learning must be specific for grade, so our plan is divided into groups.

While the following outline represents a shared standard across all classes, individual teachers may manage their availability based on individual circumstances.

### **Early Childhood: Distance Learning Tools**

**Assessments:** There will be no assignment of assessments.

**Home learning opportunities:** Teachers will share daily rhythm examples, stories, circle songs and games, and recipes as resources to use in the home. Each teacher will design age-appropriate curriculum. Expectations for each class will differ.

**Communication Platform:** Early Childhood teachers will primarily communicate via Parent Square. You will receive weekly updates, so please check your messages. Zoom Video Communications may also be used with parents.

**Office Hours:** Teachers will be available for consultation by phone or Parent Square message for individual questions.

### **Grades 1-2-3: Distance Learning Tools**

**Assessments:** There will be no assignment of assessments.

**Home learning opportunities:** Teachers will post daily rhythm examples, stories, circle songs and games, and recipes as resources to use in the home. In addition, project and activity opportunities will be listed. Each teacher will design age-appropriate curriculum. Expectations for each class will differ.

**Communication Platform:** Grades 1-2-3 teachers will primarily communicate using Parent Square. You will receive weekly updates, so please check your messages. Zoom Video Communications may also be used with parents.

**Office Hours:** Teachers will be available for consultation by phone or Parent Square message for individual questions.



## **Grades 4-5: Distance Learning Tools**

**Assessments:** There will be no assignment of assessments.

**Home Learning opportunities:** Each teacher will design age-appropriate curriculum. Therefore, the expectations for each class will differ. Class and specialty teachers will post daily rhythm examples, stories, circle songs and games, and recipes as resources to use in the home. In addition, project and activity opportunities will be listed.

**Communication Platform:** Grades 4-5 teachers will primarily communicate using Parent Square. Zoom Video Communications may also be used with parents. If parents are present, teachers may offer a time to connect with students over Zoom. Online resources will be shared with parents via Google Classroom.

**Office Hours:** Teachers will be available for consultation by phone or Parent Square message for individual questions.

## **Grade 6: Distance Learning Tools**

**Assessments:** There will be no assignment of assessments.

**Home Learning opportunities:** Each teacher will design age-appropriate curriculum. Therefore, the expectations for each class will differ. Class and specialty teachers will post daily rhythm examples, stories, circle songs and games, and recipes as resources to use in the home. In addition, project and activity opportunities will be listed.

**Communication Platform:** Grade 6 teachers will primarily communicate using Parent Square. Zoom Video Communications may also be used with students if parents are present. Online resources will be shared with parents via Google Classroom.

**Office Hours:** Teachers will be available for consultation by phone or Parent Square message for individual questions.

## **Grades 7-8: Distance Learning Tools**

**Assessments:** There will be no assignment of assessments.

**\*Students in grades 7-8 have school email accounts and have taken a computer civics class at school. Class teachers and Subject Specialists may share recorded and live lessons, online courses, Google Hangout or Zoom discussions, and experiential learning assignments that can be done from home or outdoors. Class Teachers will post a schedule for your child to connect via Zoom or Google Classroom. Online resources will be shared via Google Classroom.**

**Home Learning opportunities:** Each teacher will design age-appropriate curriculum. Therefore, the expectations for each class will differ.

**Communication Platform:** Teachers will primarily communicate via Parent Square. Parents will receive weekly updates, so please check messages accordingly. Zoom Video Communications may also be used with students. Online resources will be shared with students via Google Classroom.

**Office Hours:** Teachers will be available for consultation by phone or Parent Square message for individual questions.

## **Shared Expectations**

### ***Expectations of Students (Grades 1-8)***

- Students should understand that distance learning is an important part of this year's school experience.
- Students will engage in lessons with concentration and goodwill, bringing their best efforts to this new experience.
- Students will work with adequate parental guidance but strive to work independently.
- Students are encouraged to engage with the optional activities when they complete their assigned work before the end of the designated learning time. They are then free and encouraged to expand the learning opportunity whenever possible.

### ***Expectations of Parents***

- Parents should provide a dedicated place and time for students to work at home.
- ***Rhythm is important!*** At home learning will not match in-school class time hours, so each family will have to set a schedule that works best for their situation. Your child's teacher can help you develop a plan. Teachers will have suggestions.
- It is important for the student to complete the work to the best of their own ability. Parents can be supportive by ensuring their child understands the learning task, has the required resources, and has a productive learning space and adequate time.
- Parents should recognize that they may be required to provide support to help their child remain engaged in learning.
- Parents are encouraged to reach out to any teacher via Parent Square. It is also possible to schedule a phone call or chat (individual teacher office hours will be communicated by the teacher).
- If a child is unwell and unable to participate in the daily lessons, please advise the class teacher as appropriate per grade level.
- Parents must be present for live Zoom sessions for grades 4-6.

### **Commitment of Teachers:**

Lessons may include written assignments, activity instructions, or pre-recorded audio or video. All online material will be available through Parent Square and/or the resource page on GVCS website or Google Classroom. All materials will be available for current GVCS families only and should not be shared beyond the GVCS community. The class and special subject teachers will work collaboratively to plan and deliver lessons. This will enhance the quality of learning experiences.

### **Internet Access & Screen Time:**

We are aware that our distance learning plan relies heavily on both internet access and screen time, which presents a real contradiction to our teaching philosophy of limiting screen exposure and learning through personal connection. As you can see with the progression of our distance learning plan, we only expect online screen time with our oldest students.

Thank you for participating in our technology survey. It has informed our decision-making process. We are working to address everyone's needs so all children have equal access to learning opportunities.



If your child will be unattended online for the first time, here is an article that outlines parental settings – [How to Set up Parental Controls on all Devices.](#)

### **The Learning Curve:**

Schools nationwide have found themselves in the situation of moving to distance learning instruction in a short span of time. The learning curve will be steep, particularly for Waldorf Schools who consciously choose hands-on learning over and above virtual experiences. As such, we anticipate experiencing a few “hiccups” as we roll out this new teaching platform.

Here are a few tips to remember as we enter this uncharted territory:

- Don't hesitate to report issues regarding our learning tools to both your class teacher and the school principal. The sooner we know there is an issue, the sooner we can take corrective action.
- Your child's teachers are providing materials and learning opportunities. Let's all work together to provide a structure and adequate support to your child. Each family will have different thresholds for what they can do to supplement or support.

This site will continue to be refreshed during the semester.