



## **Park Distance Learning: Parent Resource Guide**

### **What is distance learning?**

We are using the term “distance learning” deliberately because we do not believe that meaningful learning opportunities should require students to sit isolated in front of a screen for hours each day. Instead, our approach is for students to maintain connections with each other and their teachers, and to engage in authentic learning experiences across all disciplines. Park faculty will use a combination of synchronous (learning happening at the same time) and asynchronous (learning happening at different times) teaching. Although distance learning will never replace the direct contact students have with their teachers and peers as members of the Park community, it will allow students to continue to move forward in their academic studies and nurture relationships with peers and trusted adults.

Park’s faculty and administrators have been working thoughtfully to consider and plan for all aspects of our students’ learning. We want this transition to distance learning to be as seamless as possible, while also remaining adaptable and flexible to the changing needs of our students.

### **How will I know when distance learning ends?**

Distance learning will continue until the Head of School has communicated that campus is reopened. The Head of School will be in regular contact with the community via email and on our website: [www.parkschool.net/covid19](http://www.parkschool.net/covid19)

### **What will students do during distance learning?**

During distance learning, students will follow an appropriate schedule as set forth by their teachers and divisional principal(s).

All teachers will use divisionally-appropriate existing systems (Veracross, Google, Park email, etc.) to communicate lessons and expectations. In advance of each “lesson,” teachers will post instructions, links, and learning materials on those systems. Upper School students are encouraged to reach out to their teachers if they have any questions or complications, or if an assignment is unclear.

Middle School students will use a single Google Site to find their daily schedule, lesson plans, reminders of upcoming assignments, teachers’ office hours, links for meeting advisors, opportunities to connect with others, and more. The daily schedule will be emailed to students and parents every morning, Monday through Friday. Parents are encouraged to reach out to their child’s classroom teacher or advisor if they have questions.

Lower School students will have a single Google Site where families will find links to their child’s homeroom class website, which will include a weekly schedule and links to subject area lessons, projects, and activities. Students will be provided with a variety of offline and online lessons. Parents are encouraged to reach out to their child’s classroom teacher if they have a question or complication.

**What will a typical distance learning day look like?**

Distance learning will take on many forms, as Park teachers will employ a range of tools, platforms, and techniques to facilitate learning and engagement. Students are familiar with a number of tools, which can be accessed anywhere, including our learning management system (Veracross) and Google Classroom, discipline-specific software (such as Pearson Realize for Math), and video conferencing platforms (Google Meet, Zoom, etc.). Faculty will also create offline assignments and projects that will not require devices.

Daily emails will include links to landing pages for all three divisions.

**Will students have homework?**

Students will be expected to complete and submit assignments for academic classes while we are in distance learning mode. In that sense, yes, there will be homework.

**Will Park’s usual rules and policies apply?**

Yes, all Park rules and guidelines as outlined in our Student Handbooks will apply. These include those related to our policies for academic integrity, academic work, and student conduct as related to the Park community. Take time to review your child’s divisional Acceptable Use Policy ([Lower](#), [Middle](#), and [Upper](#)) and remind them that our [Harassment Policy](#) includes online behavior. Should you or your students have questions, they should reach out to their dean, advisor, or teacher.

**Will attendance be taken?**

Lower School students will be expected to attend morning meetings with their homeroom teachers and attendance will be taken at that time.

Attendance for Middle School students will be taken every day during HOUSE (Monday-Friday, 10:30-10:45 a.m.) as well as during classes that begin Zoom sessions.

Upper School students will respond to a prompt through a text-based or video-based platform, to indicate that they are present.

For all divisions, if your child is unable to attend class, please contact the classroom teacher (Lower School) and/or your child's advisor (Middle and Upper School), as well as the divisional administrative assistant:

Kara Leonard (Lower School): [kleonard@parkschool.net](mailto:kleonard@parkschool.net)

Azareah Sims-El (Middle School): [asims-el@parkschool.net](mailto:asims-el@parkschool.net)

Joy Fumia (Upper School): [jfumia@parkschool.net](mailto:jfumia@parkschool.net)

**What about athletics, co-curriculars, and activities?**

When the campus is closed for distance learning, all on-campus activities will be canceled or postponed. Teams, ensembles, clubs, and other student groups, however, are strongly encouraged to hold virtual meetings (or similar) in order to maintain social connections with each other and, if possible, to continue their work remotely. Middle and Upper School coaches will have regularly scheduled check-ins with their teams via Zoom and email. They will also provide conditioning and skill work suggestions via email.

**How can I help my child during this time of distance learning?**

Distance learning, especially as a result of a health outbreak, may be challenging for some students. Our K-12 counseling team created a [document of resources](#) to support your family's social and emotional well-being. *Teaching Tolerance* provided some resources about encountering xenophobia, including [Speaking Up Against Racism Around the New Coronavirus](#) and *Harvard Business Review* published an article on [How Working Parents Can Prepare for Coronavirus Closures](#).

**Will the school's support personnel still be available for my child and family during this time of distance learning?**

Yes. Counselors, learning resource teachers, and the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) office are available for online Zoom appointments and email support on a daily basis. Each office also has available resources listed on divisional landing pages. Please reach out directly as needed:

**Zella Adams** (Lower School Counselor): [zadams@parkschool.net](mailto:zadams@parkschool.net)

**Krista Dhruv** (Middle and Upper School Counselor): [kdhruv@parkschool.net](mailto:kdhruv@parkschool.net)

**Porscha Henson** (Middle and Upper School Counselor): [phenson@parkschool.net](mailto:phenson@parkschool.net)

**Courtney Rollins** (Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion): [crollins@parkschool.net](mailto:crollins@parkschool.net)

Additionally, our K-12 Learning Resource Team created a [document to support faculty](#) during a period of online distance learning. This can be used to help your child feel supported as well.

Should you need to contact a member of the Learning Resource Team, reach out to:

**Susan Eisner** (Lower School Resource Teacher): [seisner@parkschool.net](mailto:seisner@parkschool.net)

**Debbie Dolan** (Middle School Resource Teacher): [ddolan@parkschool.net](mailto:ddolan@parkschool.net)

**Karyn Fisher** (Upper School Resource Teacher): [kfisher@parkschool.net](mailto:kfisher@parkschool.net)

Finally, we are aware that technology-related issues may arise. The Tech Team (Academic Tech Coordinators and IT Department) created a [troubleshooting document](#) for you and your children. Should you or your child need additional support, please reach out to our team with a summary of the issue, screenshots (if possible), and identify the device you are using:

**Maria Johnson** (Lower School Tech Coordinator and Teacher): [mjohnson@parkschool.net](mailto:mjohnson@parkschool.net)

**Samira Phillips** (Middle School Tech Coordinator and Teacher): [sphillips@parkschool.net](mailto:sphillips@parkschool.net)

**Mick Scott** (Upper School Tech Coordinator and Teacher): [mscott@parkschool.net](mailto:mscott@parkschool.net)

**Information Technology** (copy your divisional Tech Coordinator): [techsupport@parkschool.net](mailto:techsupport@parkschool.net)

If you need advice or suggestions about procuring a device for your child at home, contact IT at [techsupport@parkschool.net](mailto:techsupport@parkschool.net)

### **Whom should I contact if I have additional questions or concerns?**

Should you have any questions, please reach out to your child's classroom teacher or advisor. Other adults who should be contacted include:

Malika DeLancey (Lower School Principal): [mdelancey@parkschool.net](mailto:mdelancey@parkschool.net)

Matt Doyle (Lower School Assistant Principal): [mdoyle@parkschool.net](mailto:mdoyle@parkschool.net)

Josh Wolf (Middle School Principal): [jwolf@parkschool.net](mailto:jwolf@parkschool.net)

Alpana Chhibber (Middle School Dean): [achhibber@parkschool.net](mailto:achhibber@parkschool.net)

Patti Porcarelli (Upper School Principal): [pporcarelli@parkschool.net](mailto:pporcarelli@parkschool.net)

Traci Wright (Upper School Dean): [twright@parkschool.net](mailto:twright@parkschool.net)

### **What if my child is quarantined when school is back in session?**

If your child is quarantined when we return to Park's campus, please contact **Nurse Jan Brant** ([jbrant@parkschool.net](mailto:jbrant@parkschool.net) or 410-339-4149) and your divisional principal to seek advice on providing access to learning materials and lessons.

---

### **The Park School Mission**

Devoted to intellectual inquiry, a collaborative spirit of learning, and an appreciation for the diversity of human experience, The Park School of Baltimore is a community founded on positive expectations of our students and respect for individual differences.

We cultivate children's innate curiosity by nurturing their interests and engaging them as active participants in their own education.

We support young people in becoming confident questioners and responsible citizens of the world.

