



The City School

LIGHT TO THE CITY

Dear City School Family,

We had another encouraging leadership call this morning! We experienced rest and grace as we worked together to serve you. As a result of that time, here is an email with many of the promised resources. This email has three parts: 1) establishing expectations in our new reality, 2) resources for online learning, and 3) resources for physical, spiritual and emotional well being. We love you and are so blessed to seek shalom together.

SCHOOL EXPECTATIONS IN A NEW REALITY

School is in Session -- Learning is Still Happening!

It is truly tragic that the Philadelphia School District has decided to cease remote learning. The City School is NOT stopping and we now have the opportunity to engage more deeply in new ways. City School teachers will continue to engage regularly with you to maintain an active learning environment--even from afar. As our paradigm for learning evolves, our teachers are conducting live classes, emailing assignments, utilizing Google Classroom or Zoom and availing themselves to parents and students. It may not be during the same hours of a typical school day, but we are leaning in to *Shalom at Home* as a way to go deeper in our collective mission.

Don't Stress About Grades or Standardized Tests - Sound Minds and Bodies Matter More!

There is so much on all of our plates as we make these adjustments to life. Please use this time to seek joy, laughter, meditate, dance, play games, sing karaoke, take a walk, try a new recipe, relax, and draw close to one another. Taking care of one another involves practicing patience, taking mini breaks, eating healthy foods, and even unplugging from the overload of information from the outside world. Be mindful to create the balance that you and your family need in order to be healthy emotionally and physically. Remember, God remains in control even during this transitory time.

Please note, we are looking into pass/fail grading options and considering re-organizing learning towards more project-based options. Do not stress about checking every box if that doesn't promote your well-being right now.

ONLINE LEARNING RESOURCES

We would love for you to take this time to explore learning that makes the most sense for your family. We have done the research to offer some of the best online resources that aligns with your child's ongoing City School education. Click on the links, use what works and skip what doesn't!

Reading/Writing (PK-12)

[Khan Academy Kids](#) - Prek - 2

[Khan Academy](#) - What is Khan Academy? They offer exercises, quizzes, and tests so students can practice and master skills, as well as instructional videos to help students learn or review material.

- Khan Academy has a library of standards-aligned lessons covering kindergarten through early college math, grammar, science, history, AP® courses, SAT® preparation, and more.
- Students can practice skills with exercises, quizzes, and mastery challenges and get immediate feedback and support.
- Khan Academy is available in 40 [languages](#).
- Students without laptops can access the Khan Academy website or use the Khan Academy app on smartphones.

Parent Resources

[Daily Schedule with links](#)

[Resource Page](#)

[ReadWorks](#) - FREE reading content, curriculum, and tools to power teaching and learning from Kindergarten to 12th grade.

Teachers, parents, and students never have to pay to access ReadWorks digitally or otherwise. All adults, no matter who they are, may create a digital class and assign reading content and curriculum to students for free. We have always believed that students deserve barrier-free access to the highest-quality reading materials and instruction, and that belief has only grown stronger during this crisis.

Reading/Writing (K-5)

[Reading Eggs](#) - Students should already have a TCS login they can continue to use at home

[Storyline](#) - Read-a-loud books and stories

Math (K-12)

[Khan Academy](#) - What is Khan Academy? We offer exercises, quizzes, and tests so students can practice and master skills, as well as instructional videos to help students learn or review material.

[IXL](#) - Math practice skills for K-12

Math (K-5)

[Prodigy](#) - Prodigy is a leveled math program. Students are tested, leveled, and then progress at their own pace. Third through fifth grade students at Spruce Hill have been using this for the past two years (as part of computer class) and have logins that they should already be using at home.

[Math Blaster](#) - The goal at Math Blaster is clear: "Your success depends on your ability to use your brain and logic skills." With an exciting theme featuring aliens and outer space, Math Blaster lets your students become intergalactic heroes based on their math operation and critical thinking skills. Registration is required, but the game itself is free. Be sure to check out the Teacher Section to find Math Blaster for the Classroom.

Computers (6-12)

[Typing Club](#) - Free account has a ton of capability. Watch typing lessons, practice, and store progress. Premium account (paid) not necessary to get full benefit of these typing lessons.

[Code.org](#) - Beginning coding program (Grades 6-8 already have login)

Science (K-12)

[National Geographic Kids](#) - Games, videos, science projects, etc...

[NASA](#) - Explore NASA's online activities, e-books, podcasts and other content. The universe is waiting.

Fun Learning

[Kahoot](#) - Fun and super competitive trivia game that you can play in small or large groups. Choose from already created games or create your own games. Needs setup by an adult.

[GoNoodle](#) - Website to get kids up and moving

[The Learning Station](#) - Energizing kinesthetic brain breaks to use in between learning times

EMOTIONAL, SPIRITUAL AND PHYSICAL WELL BEING

From Jessica Scott, City School Student Care Director:

Hello, I wanted to connect with you all to offer my support and care during this time. You'll see my phone number listed below. Feel free to reach out via email, phone or text. You can reach out to ask questions, vent, voice frustrations, anything that would be helpful to take some of the burden off.

This season can produce a lot of stress, anxiety and frustration. This is all normal, but we do not need to bear it alone. We are the body of Christ, we bear each other's burdens.

Trying to teach our children at home can produce a lot of stress. You are doing an excellent job; I firmly believe we are all doing the best we can with the skills and resources we have.

Below is a list of resources for self care, how to talk to about COVID-19, how to deal with homework frustration, as well as practical resources of where to receive meals, support and assistance.

Praying for all of you, and truly hoping to hear from you,

Jessica Scott, MEd

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Talking to Kids about the Coronavirus:

<https://www.pennlive.com/life/2020/03/coronavirus-how-parents-should-talk-to-children-about-covid-19-and-other-tips-to-help-kids.html>

Dealing with Homework Frustration:

<https://www.wikihow.com/Deal-with-Homework-Frustration-As-a-Parent>

Parenting During Crisis:

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/here-there-and-everywhere/202003/12-ways-effectively-parent-during-crisis-part-1>

CDC Resources for Self Care, Managing Stress and Helping Children Cope:

<https://emergency.cdc.gov/coping/selfcare.asp>

<https://www.cdc.gov/childrenindisasters/helping-children-cope.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/managing-stress-anxiety.html>

Free Meal Options:

<https://www.phila.gov/2020-03-14-city-and-district-provide-meals-activity-space-during-school-closures>

Counseling and Mental Health Resources:

<https://www.opencounseling.com/pennsylvania/philadelphia>

<https://generocity.org/philly/2018/06/27/mental-health-guide-where-to-get-therapy-on-a-sliding-scale-in-philadelphia/>

Open Rec Centers:

<https://www.phila.gov/2020-03-16-50-recreation-centers-and-six-older-adult-centers-to-remain-open/>