

Arlington Public Schools
Spring 2020 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Dear ELL Families,

We hope that this information will help you to better understand the plan for education in Arlington now that our school buildings are closed through the end of this school year.

1. What are the learning expectations from May 4 to June 19?

The first phases of remote learning focused on maintaining teacher and student connections, and engaging students in enrichment and deeper learning activities. As we move into this next phase on May 4th, we will continue to prioritize teacher and student connections.

We will also start teaching essential concepts and skills for students to be prepared for the next grade or course. Because students will participate in varying ways in remote learning given the wide variety of family needs, circumstances, and choices that have been shared with us, we plan to start next year with an extensive review of material taught remotely this spring. Specific expectations for the different grade levels are explained below.

Grades K-5

- We highly encourage all students to participate in video conference meetings with teachers to maintain social language skills and gain clarification on assignments. Students should complete all assignments if possible.
- We understand that there are students who are struggling with remote learning due to computer access, increased anxiety, and family challenges. Each family must make the decision of how much their child will participate during remote learning based on what is in the best interest of their child.

Grades 6-8

- Students should check Google Classroom on Monday mornings. Teachers post all assignments by 9:00AM (Mon-Fri for Gibbs; Monday for OMS;). Gibbs due dates vary. Most OMS work is due on Friday. Students can email their teacher if they need help.
- Students should participate in Google Hangout meetings. Check Google Classroom for the days and times of these important classes.

Grades 9-12

- Students will need to sign up to receive “audit credit” during the week of May 4-11, for each of their classes. Teachers will post sign up information on Google Classroom or will email it.
- Upon successful completion of each class they are auditing to a basic standard (work completed by the due date, and with effort, not necessarily mastery), they will receive audit recognition on their transcript. Students should expect 2-3 hours of work per class per week.
- Teachers will be holding Google Hangouts weekly. Students are highly encouraged to attend these as much as possible.
- Teachers will primarily communicate with students through Google Classroom. Students should also communicate with teachers via email.
- A full list of questions and answers about Term 4 for grades 9-12 is available here: [FAQ Term 4 \(Audit\) for FAMILIES](#)

2. How will school work be graded?

Grades K-5

- To be determined

Grades 6-8

- (M)eeting - high participation and work that shows understanding
- (P)artially meeting - some participation and some understanding
- (U)nable to determine - lack of participation.

Grades 9-12

- Upon successful completion of each class they are auditing, they will receive audit recognition on their transcript if they meet a basic standard (work completed by the due date, and with effort, not necessarily mastery). Students should expect 2-3 hours of work per class per week.

3. Can I schedule a video conference with my student’s teachers?

Yes, you can contact any of your student’s teachers to request a phone or video conference. You can also contact your teachers via email.

4. Who do I contact if I have technology questions?

Please contact your student’s ELL teacher immediately if you need help with a technology issue. Here is some general technology information:

Information on how to log into Spyonder accounts is found [here](#).

How to connect to a wireless network:

Chromebook - <https://support.google.com/chromebook/answer/1047420?hl=en>

Other online resources: <https://arlingtonenrich.wixsite.com/mysite/updates>

Comcast is offering free service for families without internet service. [Comcast free service](#). Another resource for internet service is through [Mass.gov Life-Line Services](#).

5. Can my child still get lunches from the school district?

Arlington EATS and the Town of Arlington will be delivering food to any Arlington resident in need. To receive food:

- Call Arlington Food Hotline at (781) 316-3400 or click [here](#).
- Please leave a message with your name, address, phone number, family size and you will receive a call back as soon as possible.
- Deliveries will include canned and shelf-stable food and may include prepared meals.
- Please call back when you need another delivery.

6. What if my child needs to access or return materials to school?

Please contact your school principal to ask about accessing or returning school materials. You can also contact your student's ELL teacher for assistance.

7. What is the last day of school?

The last day of school is on Friday, June 19, 2020.

Please contact your student's ELL teacher with any additional questions:

Grades K-5

Bishop - Isabel Ferreira (iferreira@arlington.k12.ma.us)

Brackett - Betsy Griffin (bgriffin@arlington.k12.ma.us)

Dallin - Mandy Massis (mmassis@arlington.k12.ma.us)

Hardy - Hannah Dingman (hdingman@arlington.k12.ma.us), Kathy Feinmann (kfeinmann@arlington.k12.ma.us)

Peirce - Laura Goldstein (lgoldstein@arlington.k12.ma.us)

Stratton - Tiffany Dunbar (tdunbar@arlington.k12.ma.us), Beth Federico (bfederico@arlington.k12.ma.us)

Thompson - Nicole Fraktman (nfraktman@arlington.k12.ma.us), Kristen Richards (krichards@arlington.k12.ma.us)

Grade 6

Gibbs School - Heather Smith (hsmith@arlington.k12.ma.us)

Grades 7-8

Ottoson Middle School - Jessica Nguy (jnguy@arlington.k12.ma.us)

Grades 9-12

Arlington High School - Catherine Carew (ccarew@arlington.k12.ma.us)

Glossary

distance/remote learning - learning away from the traditional school setting

educational equity - fairness in the way students receive an education

access to technology - able to use or get technology (for learning)

asynchronous learning - learning the material at different times

synchronous learning - learning the material at the same time

rubric - a set of instructions used to assess learning

Google Meet (also called Google Hangout) - a Google video conferencing application used to connect with students and families

mute - turning the microphone off during a video conference

unmute - turning the microphone on during a video conference

Chat box - a place to type a comment during a video conference