



REMOTE LEARNING : TIPS FOR TEACHERS

1 Connect with students first.

- A personal touch each day, such as a video of you leading a daily prayer and talking to students, is encouraging and helps ease anxiety.
- Students miss their friends and they miss their teachers. They need to know you care and you are there to help them.
- Remember that students may have a wide range of contexts — some might be caregivers for younger siblings; some might be home alone; some might have difficulty accessing learning.
- Activities that make students feel connected (post a baby picture, dress like a superhero, etc) will help mimic the at-school experience.

2 Provide support to families.

- Provide regular structure and format for lessons so parents know what to expect.
- Provide clear expectations for students (work expected, due dates, etc).
- Remember that breaks and playtime are important for student mental health, too.

3 Continue best practices.

- Link all learning activities to curricular outcomes.
- Exercise professional judgement in linking to online resources, ensuring they support the Program of Studies.
- Providing explicit instruction, modeling, and guided learning is critical in remote learning environments.
- Virtual classrooms are not repositories for worksheets or booklets.
- Not all activities need to be tech-based. You can have students complete activities and upload pictures of them, for example. Consider how they might build, measure, interview, or create away from the computer.
- Especially in elementary school, look for cross-curricular connections so students can continue their learning in a holistic way.

4 Keep things simple.

- Provide a reasonable workload for students. Overwhelming amounts of reading or text-based instructions can be challenging.
- Use simple language in written messaging to assist families in understanding what to do.
- Objectives may take longer to achieve. Be comfortable in knowing that learning will not happen at the same pace as in our classrooms.
- Look for “big rocks” in curriculum; what is critical for students to know?
- Use tools with which students are familiar.
- Add tools as students become more comfortable.

5 Set clear office hours.

- Remote learning does not mean you are available 24/7. Let students & families know when you can help them.
- Allow for some synchronous (at the same time) and asynchronous (pre-recorded or independent work not at the same time as others) learning activities. This allows you to check in with families and learning but also provides the ability for families to be flexible in how they schedule their learning at home.

6 Take care of yourself.

- Prayer, exercise, sleep, and technology breaks are also important for adults and caregivers.
- Connect with colleagues to collaborate and ask questions — you are not alone in this!



*For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.
(Jeremiah 29:11)*