



NORTH JUDSON-SAN PIERRE

SCHOOL CORPORATION

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Dr. Annette Zupin
Superintendent

September 26, 2018

Dear NJ-SP Parents and Students:

North Judson-San Pierre School Corporation has been approved for grades K-12 to utilize the eLearning Day Program for inclement weather or planned/make up days. We will utilize two (2) eLearning days for the 2018-2019 school year. Our February 18 snow make-up day will be an eLearning day. The other eLearning day will be determined at a later date—perhaps where inclement weather is predicted ahead of time or at the end of the school year.

The NJ-SP teachers and administrators have been reflecting and studying the options offered, looking for the best way to engage our students in the learning process, prepare them for the world they will be living and working in, and minimize the impact on our family time. We have created a plan we believe optimizes the eLearning concept/platform.

Attached is an information sheet concerning eLearning at NJ-SP. Each building and classroom teacher will provide more specific information for each grade level and classroom. While we are excited about this opportunity, we are aware there will be learning curves along the way. Please support this initiative. Please ask questions. Please engage in conversation with your student regarding eLearning. Together, we will create a positive experience in digital learning for our students.

Sincerely,

Dr. Annette Zupin
Superintendent

What is eLearning?

eLearning is the use of technology to enable students to learn anytime and anywhere. North Judson-San Pierre School Corporation will utilize two (2) eLearning days for the 2018-2019 school year. Our February 18 snow make-up day will be an eLearning day. The other eLearning day will be determined at a later date—perhaps where inclement weather is predicted ahead of time or at the end of the school year.

NJ-SP believes there is no "alternative" or "substitute" for a quality teacher instructing our students. Therefore we don't want to regularly "trade" a traditional school day for an eLearning day. Having the technical and organizational skills necessary to do independent, online learning is important for our students. Also, it is nice to offset a couple of make-up snow days when we have inclement weather.

Teachers will create standards-based lessons with resources and the assignment being available through a learning management system (LMS). Students will also use the LMS to submit their completed assignments.

What is an LMS?

A learning management system is used to organize a class. If you communicate with college students you may have heard them talk about Blackboard or Canvas. NJ-SP teachers are using Google Classroom as their LMS. Features/uses of an LMS include: announcements, calendar, discussion board, access to digital curriculum, quizzes/tests, make and collect assignments and cloud storage.

What if we do not have Internet access at our home?

- For some assignments the required files can be downloaded while at school in advance.
- For some assignments, the student may be able to do the actual thinking/writing process while at home and then quickly upload it when they return to school. (For example, if the assignment is to write a response to a blog, the student could complete it in a word processor while at home.)
- Parents may consider other options, like taking their child to a family member or friends who have access or to one of the many places with free public access, including an open lab at NJSP schools.

Note: students will not be penalized if they cannot get Internet service, but they will be responsible for completing the work requiring the Internet while at school upon return.

What will the eLearning day look like for students?

Students will be at home or at childcare and will access their learning through a computer/device. Teachers will work ahead and put their assignments online. Teachers will be available for student questions online. Teachers will work with students early in the school year to ensure each student is ready for eLearning days. Students are taught how to access necessary apps, locations, lessons, and do necessary work to complete assignments digitally. NJ-SP teachers are planning “practice” eLearning days the week of October 22. This will allow the teachers and students to “practice” what an eLearning assignment looks like and how to successfully complete the required work. These practice days will take place at school on a regular school day.

Teachers will post contact information and assignments by 9:00 AM. Teachers will host virtual office hours from 9:00 AM-3:00 PM over the course of the eLearning day. Digital office hours can be conducted via email, Google Chat, or Google Classroom.

Students’ attendance will be determined by their completion of assignments. Incomplete or missing work will be assigned the appropriate grade and will result in an unexcused absence.

We are aware that not all students have Internet access at home. While assignments may require Internet access, students will not be penalized if they are unable to get on-line on the designated eLearning day. If you do not have Internet access we hope you will consider the library, McDonalds, etc. Also, a school computer lab will be open for family access to the Internet. In other words, you may come to the school with your student to use our Wi-Fi. Dropping off your students during the day without adult supervision will not be allowed.

What preliminary steps have we taken and will we take to begin implementing eLearning?

- Survey to students/families regarding how they access the Internet away from home
- Training and practice sessions during BCT this past school year
- PD for teachers this summer
 - June 4 Teacher eLearning Work Session 8:00 AM- 10:00 AM Jr-Sr High School; 1:00 PM-3:00 PM Elementary School
 - August 6—10:00 AM-11:30 AM Central Office
 - September 17 BCT day—eLearning refresher session
- Information to parents and students
- Practice prior to the eLearning Day
 - October 22-26