



9<sup>th</sup> Grade Remote Roundtable  
March 30, 2020

### STRUCTURING TIME:

#### PARENT QUESTIONS AND FEEDBACK

- A number of parents are asking for school help to provide more structure to their children's remote learning.
- Many parents requesting a later start time for all remote meetings. 8:30am meetings are tough.
- Virtual school from 9-3 pm?
- Parents would like a few hours of video instruction, especially for 9th graders
- Difficulty getting their kids to wake up and face the day? Staying up very late. Then wanting to sleep in.

#### BROOKE'S REMARKS:

- School has published the master schedule of all the remote meetings via Zoom or Google Hangouts.
- Link to the SCHOOLWIDE VIDEO MEETING SCHEDULE by grade:  
[docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Ycqlze9nmcwYoLTZWWkMQMwv883rP4OL7KwFxrYw2c/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Ycqlze9nmcwYoLTZWWkMQMwv883rP4OL7KwFxrYw2c/edit?usp=sharing)
- Critical questions for parents to ask their child: What are you working on? Can we have time to check-in?

### SCHOOL RE-OPENING ON APRIL 20th?

#### PARENT QUESTIONS AND FEEDBACK

- Federal Government says social distancing is through April 30th. Is school closure is going to follow?
- Yes, even one month of return to the school building would be welcome
- If there's no school for the rest of the year, any suggestions how to discuss this with the kids?

#### BROOKE'S REMARKS:

- There is little chance that schools will re-open
- Mayor DeBlasio has said that chances are that students will not re-open on April 20
- Teachers are now shifting gears to plan for remote learning on a longer-term

### ACADEMIC PREPAREDNESS?

#### PARENT QUESTIONS AND FEEDBACK

- What is your confidence level that our kids will be academically prepared for next year? Do you anticipate that you at need to start next fall differently in terms of what is required?

#### BROOKE'S REMARKS:

- Rather than pretend remote learning will be the same as face-to-face learning, when we convene next year, we will have to do some diagnostics to make sure everyone is caught up. Anticipate that we will have to restructure learning in the fall.

### CHECK-IN'S:

#### PARENT QUESTIONS AND FEEDBACK

- Many parents need the message to students that these are mandatory, but they would like them not to be graded or tied to any penalty for not attending
- Smaller breakout sessions are a great idea. Kids are looking for more of a "classroom" setting rather than a "meeting"?
- Expectations from teachers seem to very high and not necessarily tenable. It's adding to our stress.
- Can teachers post video lessons so kids can watch them on a reasonable/on-demand schedule?
- Some students need the structure and will disregard parental advice.

#### BROOKE'S REMARKS:



- Checking in by video are opportunities to positively create connection and community but cannot be required
- Some students are taking care of siblings, grandparents, parents who are having job loss in addition to having to complete schoolwork
- You, as a parent, know what is possible for your child. Parents should feel free to mandate that the schedule. Parents can say that Brooke is requiring attendance.
- Teachers have been reflecting and trying to figure out what is most conducive to learning. They are trying to figure out how to do smaller break-out sessions
- Teachers are figuring out which students are struggling
- Teachers have pulled remote learning together and launched it in this short-time frame. But now we are realizing that we are likely in this situation for a long time. We are going to retool (for a longer-term view)
- Students should show up as best they can.
- Teachers can get a sense of how things are working by students showing up and giving feedback. That way, they can pace the work and respond to student work and feedback.
- Master grid of zoom sessions (attached) includes all classes for the grade - not every course shown is a class your child is enrolled in
- 8:30 start time are for classes that are not in core subjects (i.e., physical education and art)
- Teachers, themselves have home responsibilities and need to get their own kids started with their days
- Brooke has been a co-teacher on every class. She can see that LAB Students are working 24/7

### SPRING BREAK: Is spring break still happening?

#### BROOKE'S REMARKS:

Yes, break is still happening. Brooke is working with teachers to assign some long-term projects and provide Enrichment opportunities

### SUMMER SCHOOL?

#### BROOKE'S REMARKS:

Summer School is determined by the Office of Academic Policy. They have not issued a policy. Summer school is on pause.

### SELF ADVOCACY

#### BROOKE'S REMARKS:

- Students need to practice self-advocacy by e-mailing their teachers and copying (Cc'ing) guidance counselor and Brooke so that they know about what issues out there
- If a student feels overwhelmed and wants to avoid engaging work or office hours, a good thing (for students and/or parents) to ask the teacher is: "given where I am academically, where should I start?"
- If your child had been disengaged, it's hard for the child to know where to begin at this point
- Remote learning is already in process: it's moving. They need to jump in and e-mail teacher directly to figure out how to engage.

### Differentiation

#### BROOKE'S REMARKS:

IEP students have been the first outreach by teachers. IEP students have a supplementary session that's individualized and one-one-one

### ICT TEACHING

Questions, ideas, or suggestions, email us:

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**PARENT QUESTIONS AND FEEDBACK**

- Child has needed an ICT setting. Now, both the primary and secondary teachers are missing and parents have to focus on their jobs. It is beyond the student's capability to focus on schoolwork on their own.

**BROOKE'S REMARKS:**

- Have the child keep showing up, listen, take in what they can. Learning is not going to be as successful as in the ICT classroom. Teachers will have to circle back on skills.
- Teachers are prioritizing IEP meetings related to remote learning, to talk about this period
- Teachers are planning to have smaller sessions for kids with IEP's

**GRADING, TURNING IN WORK & JUPITERGRADES**

**PARENT QUESTIONS AND FEEDBACK**

- Has there been any talk of grades going pass/fail? Classes like Study Hall? Music?
- Somehow my kid's grades went down last week and we don't know why
- If your child plays an instrument may practice act as a grade? Taping the practice for a grade?
- Literature requirement - 30-45 minute reading requirement?

**BROOKE'S REMARKS:**

- Start engaging - cultivate a community of readers
- There is talk switching to pass/fail for non-core classes such as physical education
- However, we have been asked to avoid wild departures from what we already had in place
- Some parents want numerical grade. Some parents want a place holder semester.
- Brooke is most concerned about demonstrating mastery of learning
- She would like it if the DOE allowed schools to have some latitude
- Brooke's preference - get the grade you HAD before the crisis or get the grade you EARNED

**View of JupiterGrades**

**BROOKE'S REMARKS:**

- JupiterGrades has generated anxiety for many families. But many/enough families cleave to it, so she will leave it on
- JupiterGrades is a **workbook**. Best use of it is to see what teachers see on a daily basis. Grades will fluctuate based on what assignments are graded. There will be a lag.
- Assignments will be accepted at any time and will not be penalized if turned in late. Work can be turned in without penalty for lateness.
- Giving traditional exams are not tpart of he plan.
- In the new remote learning world, schoolwork and homework have blended together

**INDEPENDENT READING:** much support for required independent reading

**PARENT QUESTIONS AND FEEDBACK**

- Is it possible for students to be "highly encouraged" to do 30 minutes of literature reading per day (and maybe be asked to **keep a log**, of some sort)
- Smaller book clubs? Reading groups?
- Can Ms. Rosen coordinate?

**BROOKE'S REMARKS:** In favor

**GROUP PROJECTS**

**PARENT QUESTIONS AND FEEDBACK**

- A number of parents expressed concerns that their child has not been socializing with other kids
- Could you encourage teachers to assign group work (which many students find motivating), when possible and appropriate depending on the student?
- Parents praised Mr. Reyes for a health assignment which forced students to have a connection by assigning a group project; graded individually but submitted together
- Kids motivate each other and carry each other along. And not having that directly, HAS AN IMPACT

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**BROOKE'S REMARKS:**

- Some kids are asking for daily assignments, others are asking for deeper assignments - middle ground - something to work on with other people - holistic - top down - hard to plan that while rolling out
- Students may perceive more work now because schoolwork and homework are conflated/combined
- Social interaction is imperative
- I think working in groups can be great. But students need to be able to pick their partners. Being assigned a partner in this situation is too difficult
- Trying to find partners is daunting to some students. It is no less daunting to find partners daily and to move forward in one's own style
- Brooke wants to emphasize the need to check for learning

**REGENTS**

**PARENT QUESTIONS AND FEEDBACK**

- Concern about Global History, which has a curriculum over 2 years.
- Can there be scheduled online/Zoom course for Regents classes?
- Can someone please explain the Regents program, what grade level it involves?
- Can you please let us know what regents 9th graders would have had?
- Does that mean that regardless of Regents, teachers will not use the Regents in their final grade.
- Is Spanish regent optional for 9th grade?

**BROOKE'S REMARKS:**

- If parents are concerned about high Regents scores, get a Barron's book & search online for practice
- Our curriculum is standards-aligned to be prepared for Regents exams
- Global History: although the course is over two years, the exam only covers the 10th grade year
- Regents is normally taken in June.
- Not clear whether Regents exams will happen this year. We need to wait a week or so: New York State to figure it out
- In Math, the material that Ms. Chan & Mr. Rubel are providing is Regents aligned and preparatory
- Spanish Regents happen at a older grade
- Living Environments is more accessible (not hard)
- Teachers are being encouraged to have JupiterGrades make sense - in alignment with how the student was doing before the crisis. Teachers will have to do some "magic math" at the end of the year to come out in the students' favor
- Brooke's advice for families/students:
  - o Show up to as many interfaces as possible
  - o Check Google Classroom

**SYSTEM CHALLENGES: UPLOADING, ETC.**

**PARENT QUESTIONS AND FEEDBACK**

- Have there been challenges with uploading work? Is the system just overwhelmed?

**BROOKE'S REMARKS:**

- The biggest crashes have been with Zoom and Google Classrooms because there have been so many on
- Best advice: reboot your system and e-mail teachers if your student is having trouble uploading work

**PRAISE FOR BROOKE & TEACHERS**

- Thank you, so happy to be at LAB. Even more now than before
- Good friend is an adjunct professor at Montclair. It's a huge lift (effort) to move their curriculum online. Teachers need a lot of our understanding. It's tough all around.
- BROOKE YOU ARE ALL DOING A GREAT JOB! :-) Thank you thank you thank you`
- Brooke, thank you and the teachers for everything!
- Just wanted to give a special thanks to Brooke for your loving leadership. Your communications have been amazingly comforting and thoughtful. Thank you, thank you.
- Thank you to Brooke and all of the teachers, great job by all! We appreciate it!



- So impressed with everyone at Lab given circumstances.... THANK YOU! so reassuring & welcome!!
- Love you Brooke
- Yes special shout out to the teachers!!

### PRAISE FOR THIS FORUM

- Thanks again for this forum
- Yes! This is all so reassuring!
- This meeting is extremely helpful & informative. Thank you!
- Very informative session. Thank you.
- Yes, would like to stay connected and do this again. (Many in agreement)
- Yes. Would be wonderful! Second that!
- Thank you. This has been very helpful.
- Extremely helpful
- Yes please. Brooke you're a rock star.
- Thank you Brooke for your time this am... we are beyond grateful for you.
- Yes please!!!! this was great!!
- Great meeting. Thank you.
- Yes please let's do this again
- Might be helpful to have one with the kids?
- They miss you!!

### PARENT VOLUNTEER OFFERS:

- Maybe a way to SAVE us parents and give us something positive to do is to allow parents to "volunteer" to lead book clubs... (Alan Cashdollar, Ginger)

### OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS:

- KEEPING A POSITIVE ATTITUDE?: My daughter asks at least once a week when she can go back to school... any advice on how to keep the kids positive?!
- Maybe some students doing research something on COVID 19 they can sit in on? Social academic time and structure I would imagine is important to help through this.
- Curious how this affects community service hours for this year?