



Success Academy

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On Thursday, July 30th, Governor Walz and the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) provided guidance on the opening of the 2020-2021 school year under Minnesota's Safe Learning Plan. The learning scenarios he provided; hybrid (1/2 distance, 1/2 in school), and 100% distance learning are the two available to Success Academy (SA). COVID-19 has proven to be a complex public safety issue and we all are being asked to do the best we can in a difficult situation. As in all decisions, we strive to ensure the following values:

1. Keep all children, staff, and families safe.
2. Produce the best possible learning experience for your children.
3. Make decisions that result in the least disruption and consistency for our children's learning.

To help our families prepare, we wanted to inform you as quickly as we could of the following decision. **All Success Academy students will be on 100% distance learning for the start the school year.** This means:

- Teachers will organize online lessons as well as sending home projects that promote active learning experiences. We have time to plan so students do not have to be online, sitting in front of a screen for all of their learning experiences.
- Teachers will be available to work with students and families from 8 AM - 2:30 PM Monday through Thursday and Friday from 8 AM and 11:30 AM. Teachers will have 30 minutes during that time for lunch where they will be unavailable.
- Technology will be available from Success Academy that every student will have the resources they need to connect to their teacher and classroom.
- We will be looking in the coming weeks to hire community support staff to engage students and provide family support.
- We will from time to time, host small group learning activities at the school where students can meet and learn with their teacher and fellow students.

Having made this decision now, we will be able to support our teachers to be well prepared with creative and exciting learning experiences for your children. We also would like to engage you as parents to see how we can make the home experience educationally effective and less burdensome on the families. We are proud of

our families and the deep commitment they have in their child's educational success. We believe that the effective relationship between home and school is critical to each child's development.

To aid in the start of the school year, Success Academy will be facilitating 1:1 teacher, student, parent meetings on August 20 and 21. Amina Adan and Ahmed Hudle will be in touch with you to schedule your time with your student's teachers.

For students entering grade K, Emily Skahen, our teacher, will be doing 1:1 school assessments at the building the week of August 24. Amina and Ahmed will be contacting you to schedule a time for your grade K student. Online classes for grade K will start on Monday, August 31.

As we further develop our model and supports, we will continue to communicate in a timely fashion. Please share your thoughts and feedback at any point with us. We are confident that we together, can turn this tough situation into many excellent learning experiences.

Sincerely,

Success Academy Team
