



La Tierra Community School Distance Learning Plan

La Tierra Community School will be starting the year with Distance Learning, and although we would prefer to be in person, we are doing so in order to keep our community safe and healthy. It is our hope and intention to open for in-person learning as soon as is safely possible based on benchmarks provided by Yavapai County Public Health officials. We are mindful in calling our plan Distance Learning rather than Online Learning, acknowledging that we are not relying solely on computers and remembering our mission during this time:

La Tierra Community School provides an active, transformative educational experience and values a respect for diversity, academic rigor and a commitment to social and environmental justice. Our program uses the natural and cultural resources of the Southwest to foster local, relevant connections for children through learning expeditions. We value children's sense of curiosity and discovery as well as their ability to think critically, reflect upon their world and promote positive change in their community.

Our continued goal is to have La Tierra students engage in authentic learning experiences while building community in the classroom and the school community. Our Distance Learning will look different from last spring with the following expectations:

- Student and parent orientation will be available during the first week of school.
- A combination of live classes, recorded lessons, and independent learning will be provided throughout the week.
- Each teacher will have a proposed daily schedule and will post virtual class/meeting times.
- All content areas will be taught and assessed according to grade level standards.
- Specialists (i.e. Special Education teachers and related service providers) will design and provide specialized instruction based on the students' individualized education program (IEP).
- Assignments will be collected, timely feedback will be provided, and teachers will give regular updates on student progress.
- "Grades" will be based on grade level standards, the quality of work, and the accuracy for which it is completed.
- Assignments within each lesson will be self-paced, however there will be due dates.
- Attendance will be taken through a combination of live classes/meetings, email/phone and parent attestation.
- Quarterly formative and summative assessments will be administered and reviewed



for progress monitoring.

- Teachers will respond to all emails or parent/ student communication within 24 hours during the regular school week.
 - Monday-Thursday 8:15 AM-3:15 PM Student School Days (1st-7th grade)
 - Monday-Thursday 8:15 AM- 3:00 PM Kindergarten School Days
 - Fridays 8:15 AM-3:15 PM Teacher Work Days (the first 5 Fridays will be student school days in order to make up for our August 17th start date- a school calendar will be sent home before the start of school on 8/17).
- Teachers will have direct contact office hours available during the school day to all students/parents who may have questions about lessons or assignments.

La Tierra Teachers' Roles & Responsibilities

- Teachers will make students' mental, physical, and emotional well-being a priority before delving into curriculum.
- Teachers will check in with families, making sure students have the resources/devices they need for online access at home. (Teachers understand that each family's circumstances vary and will work directly with families to provide the necessary tools to ensure success.)
- Teachers will use a consistent platform, Google Classroom, for grades K-7 and will provide an introduction to this platform for students and parents during the first week of school.
- Teachers will continue to implement best practices in their instruction, providing a balance of technology, assignments that are not dependent on being online and project-based learning to keep in line with La Tierra's philosophies.
- Teachers will provide "Real Time" and "Any Time" instruction. Teachers recognize that conflicting schedules may not allow for all students to join on-live streaming, therefore, teachers will post recordings of lessons on their platforms for students to view at a later time.
- Teachers will establish time frames for each class/subject for each day. This will vary depending on grade level.
- Assignments will be collected; timely feedback will be provided.



La Tierra Parent/Guardian Roles & Responsibilities

- Establish daily routines and expectations by setting regular hours for schoolwork.
 - If possible, have students begin their school day at 8:15 AM.
 - Keep normal bedtime routines for younger children and be sure middle schoolers don't stay up too late!
 - All students should take periodic breaks and get regular exercise.
 - It is important to set these expectations for how children will spend their days starting as soon as distance learning is implemented.
- Define the physical space for your child to study.
 - If possible, find a place that can be quiet at times, as well as a space that can be monitored by an adult.
- Monitor communication from your children's teachers.
 - Teachers will communicate through emails as necessary.
 - Contact your child's teachers as needed, however please remember that teachers will be communicating with other families, as well.
 - Please allow for up to 24 hours for a response during the regular school week.
- Begin and end each day with a check in.
 - In the morning, ask your child what they are learning today? How will they spend their time? What resources do they need? What support do they need? This will allow children to process the instructions they have received from their teachers.
 - It will help children organize themselves and set priorities.
 - Families should establish these check-ins as regular parts of each day.
- Take an active role in helping your children process their learning.
 - Children learn best when they have opportunities to process their learning with others.
 - Be sure to engage with children about what they are learning, however it's



important that your child completes their own work even if they are struggling.

- Established times for quiet and reflection.
 - This can be a challenge for families with multiple children at different ages with different needs. Consider experimenting with noise-cancelling headphones.
- Encourage physical activity/exercise.
 - Schedule regular breaks to get out and move!
- Remain mindful of your child's stress or worry.
 - Be mindful of what you share with your children knowing that they can take on your stress.
- Monitor how much time your child is spending online.
 - Students should not be on computer screens all day.
 - Teachers will establish time frames for each class/ subject for each day.
 - Please communicate with your teacher if your child is struggling with the time frames as determined by each grade level.

La Tierra Student Roles & Responsibilities

- Establish daily routines for engaging in learning experiences.
- Identify a comfortable, quiet space in your home where you can work effectively and successfully.
- Regularly monitor your email (if age appropriate) and check for announcements and feedback from your teachers.
- Complete assignments, on your own, unless you are working on a group project.
 - Always put forth your best effort in doing your work.
- Meet timelines, commitments, and due dates.
- Communicate with your teachers if you cannot meet due dates or if you need support.



- Collaborate with your peers when appropriate.

Priorities, Considerations and Time Frames for Learning K-8

K-2nd Grade Priorities & Considerations

- The primary tools for communication between teachers and families will be via email and Google Classroom.
- Students will have both off- and on- screen learning activities designed to engage K-2nd learners and experiences that connect to curriculum.
- Learning tasks and activities will provide direction to families on how best to support student learning and the expected level of adult involvement. It is expected that students in grades K-2nd will need higher levels of support than students in grades 3rd-7th.

K-2nd Grade Approximate Time Frames for Teacher Instruction

10-20 minutes- per class, per day; this may increase as students build stamina and will include either time on-line and/or a video posted with instruction by the teacher.	Core Classes (Reading/Phonics, Writing, Math, Expedition)
30 minutes per week	Spanish
30-45 minutes per week	Art/Music

The instructional time listed above does not account for independent work, project based activities or one-one/small group work with the instructor. All instructional minutes required by the state will be met in a variety of ways throughout the day during distance learning.



3rd-5th Grade Priorities & Considerations

- The primary tools for communication between teachers, students, and families will be via email or Google Classroom.
- Teachers will share materials with each student's Google Drive or via Google classroom.
- Students will have both off- and on-screen learning activities designed to engage learners in experiences that connect to current curriculum.
- Students will have a combination of “Real Time” and “Any Time” lessons throughout the week.

3rd-5th Grades Approximate Time Frames for Learning

15-25 minutes- per class per day; this may increase as students build stamina and will include either time on-line and/or a video posted with instruction by the teacher.	ELA
15-25 minutes per day	Math
15-25 minutes per day	Writing
15-25 minutes per day	Expedition
30 minutes per week	Spanish
30-45 minutes per week	Art/Music

The instructional time listed above does not account for independent work, project based activities or one-one/small group work with the instructor. All instructional minutes required by the state will be met in a variety of ways throughout the day during distance learning.



6th/7th Grade Priorities & Considerations

- The primary tools for communication between teachers, students, and families will be via email or Google Classroom.
- Teachers will share materials with each student's Google Drive or via Google classroom.
- Students will have “Real Time” and independent learning activities designed to engage learners and experiences that connect to current curriculum.
- Students are encouraged to be proactive in reaching out to teachers when they have questions or assignments are unclear.
- Teachers and our new school counselor are always available to support students with academic, social, or emotional needs.

6th/7th Grade Approximate Time Frames for Learning

2-3 hours of “Real Time” instruction including breakout sessions, small groups and one on one with the teacher each day M-Th* (in 15-20-minute increments)
1-2 hours of assigned independent work time following “real time” instruction
30-45 minutes of Spanish a week
30-45 minutes of Music/Art a week

*Detailed schedule will be provided by the 6/7 teacher

The instructional time listed above does not account for independent work, project based activities or one-one/small group work with the instructor. All instructional minutes required by the state will be met in a variety of ways throughout the day during distance learning.

Families will be contacted with any changes for modifications to this plan, including when classes will resume in person on campus.

Thank you,
La Tierra Community School Administration & Staff

