



YELLOW MEDICINE EAST – ISD 2190

Serving Clarkfield, Echo, Granite Falls, Hanley Falls, Hazel Run, Upper Sioux Community

Rich Schneider, Superintendent

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YME Parents & Guardians -

Over the past several months, the Yellow Medicine East School District has been exploring methods for providing students with an alternative instructional method for days when classes are canceled due to inclement weather. These days are commonly referred to as a Virtual Learning Day, eDay or an eLearning Day. An eLearning Day means that students would receive learning activities and assignments that would be completed outside the regular school setting. Students would receive valuable learning activities and assignments for each subject that would have taken place during a regular school day. Activities may involve online and/or offline resources.

As we know, winter weather in southwest Minnesota can be quite disruptive to our school schedule due to the combination of snow and wind. The vision of this program is that an eLearning Day would count as a student day and eliminate having to make up or reschedule that day on President's Day, Easter Monday, or at the end of the school year. The district will use up to 5 eLearning Days as a means of counting those days as student instructional days.

The eLearning Day will be adjusted for the age of the students. In other words, it will look different for K-5 students in comparison to grades 6-12, based upon the student's ability to be online. Younger students will have assignments sent home during fall parent-teacher conferences in an at-home folder. This folder will include activities for each subject. These activities will also be posted through an eLearning Day link on the main BRE website.

All materials for MS/HS students will be in either Google Classroom or Schoology and may be accessed through their school-issued device and wifi. Assignments are aligned to the district's curriculum and are specifically designed for most students to complete independently. Depending on the student's age and abilities, it is estimated that it will take students around 15-20 minutes per subject for elementary students and longer for MS and HS students to complete their assignments.

In the event there is a school closing on a day after December 2, 2019, the school would identify this through the School Messenger System (JMC), that the day has been designated as an eLearning Day and students would be expected to complete their assigned activities. Teachers will be available to answer questions by email and phone during regular school hours (7:40AM-3:40PM).

As is the case with any new concept, it should be expected that there will be some bumps, concerns, and opportunities for growth resulting from this new technique. We will continuously analyze the effectiveness of this new learning concept and make adjustments as necessary. The fundamental idea of working and learning remotely can be a great opportunity for students to strengthen their 21st-century job and post-secondary educational skills and opportunities.

Please don't hesitate to contact your building administrator if you have questions or concerns. We have attached a copy of the frequently asked questions document posted online and included in this email.

Thank you,

Rich Schneider

YME Superintendent

Yellow Medicine East School District

"eLearning Day" Frequently Asked Questions

What is an eLearning Day?

An eLearning Day is used in place of a school day that has been canceled due to inclement weather. An eLearning Day means that students will complete the learning activities and assignments provided by the teacher at home. Students will receive learning activities and assignments for each subject that would have originally taken place during a regular school day.

Why is the Yellow Medicine East School District preparing for the use of an eLearning Day?

Historically, winter weather in southwest Minnesota can be persistent and disruptive. Yellow Medicine East School District lost 9 school days during the 2018-19 school year due to inclement weather. As we move into the 2019-2020 school year, our district is committed to provide our students with more opportunities for learning during snow days, which is consistent with our district's focus on student achievement. Additionally, an eLearning Day reinforces 21st-century job and post-secondary educational opportunities for working and learning remotely.

How will we be notified that a "snow day" is an eLearning Day?

The school will communicate to all parents and staff through the JMC School Messenger System that is already utilized. In the message sent, it will read that the snow day is an eLearning Day.

What about 2 hour late starts and when school closes early? Will those days also be eLearning Days?

No. In the event of two hour late starts and early dismissals, an eLearning Day will not be expected. Specifically, students and staff are typically either getting to school or going home during those school hours missed and assignments and activities are not expected for either students or staff.

What about preschoolers and an eLearning Day?

There are no expectations for preschoolers to complete activities on an eLearning Day.

What happens if a student does not complete the eLearning Day assignments?

K-12 students would be expected to turn their work in within 48 hours. Students are expected to complete assigned work in a timely manner. If students don't complete their work in a timely manner, elementary and middle/high school teachers will work with students to help them gain completion. Parents should contact their child's teacher if there are extenuating circumstances that prohibit their child from completing the assignment satisfactorily.

What if a 6-12 student does not have access to a computer and/or Internet to access the lesson or complete activities?

The student can obtain the assignment in a hard copy or electronic version during the next regular school day. Either way, students will have 48 hours to complete the required learning activities and assignments.

What if a student is on a pre-arranged absence?

The student would be expected to make up the learning activities and assignments just as if it were any other absence from school.

How is a student expected to complete the activities if they go to daycare when there is an eLearning Day?

Parents are encouraged to share eLearning information with their daycare provider. The school will provide daycare providers with information as requested.

How much time is my student expected to take to complete the assignments?

Teachers have designed eLearning activities and assignments that are equivalent in time to a regularly scheduled class period. Students working independently on an assignment will likely take less time to complete the assignment

compared to a large group setting. Depending on the student's age and abilities, it is estimated that it will take students around 15-20 minutes per subject for elementary students and longer for MS and HS students to complete their assignments.

Will the school building be closed on an eLearning Day, just as it is on a regular snow day?

Yes. The school district buildings will be closed to students and activities on an eLearning Day.

Will staff be accessible during an eLearning Day? And if so, how?

Yes. The school district staff are available to be contacted through their school email or by phone. A learning management system such as Google Classroom will be utilized by most 6th-12th grade staff. Staff will be available via email and phone, during regular school hours (7:40AM-3:40PM) to answer questions and assist students. Staff may not respond immediately to questions but are expected to respond in a timely manner. If students struggle with an assignment because they can't contact a staff member due to lack of Internet connectivity, they would still be allowed 48 hours to make up their work.

What if there is only one computer in the house but multiple students?

Students may need to share resources in the home or other locations. Some students may want to work on offline options while others complete online assignments. Grade 9-12 students would be expected to use the district-assigned device which may help alleviate the demand on the home computer. A public library is also an option for in-town students that could get there safely.

Area Public Libraries

Granite Falls Public Library:

- M-Th 9:00AM-6:30PM
- F 9:00AM-3:00PM
- Sa 9:00AM-2:00PM

Clarkfield Public Library:

- M-W 10:00AM-5:30PM
- Th 10:00AM-1:00PM & 2:00PM-6:30PM
- F 1:00PM-5:30PM

Free Community Wifi Locations

Granite Falls: Public Library, KCC and near the plaza area of the K.K. Berge building

Clarkfield: Public Library

Upper Sloux Community: Multi-purpose Building (MPB)

Hanley Falls: TBD

Wood Lake: TBD

Echo: TBD

May a student access the assignments or complete the online assignments from their smartphone?

Teacher websites can be accessed from a variety of tablets, smartphones, laptops, and desktop computers. The assignments may use a variety of websites and applications that may or may not work from a variety of devices.

Will there still be make-up dates built into the district calendar?

Yes, make-up dates will continue to be built into the district calendar. An eLearning Day is an option that may be used in place of one or more canceled school days or make-up days but may not be used for all canceled school days in any given school year.

Other questions?

If there are other questions or concerns, please contact the school offices: PreK-5 Principal Mrs. Hansen, lhansen@isd2190.org or MS/HS Principal Mr. Luft, rluft@isd2190.org or via phone at 320-564-4081.

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