



- 9/9 Academy Board Meeting 6:15 PM
- 9/16 End of Grading Period
- 9/21 Progress Reports Sent Home
- 10/5 Parent/Teacher Conference Day 1
- 10/8 PTA Meeting 6:00 PM
- 10/12 Parent/Teacher Conference Day 2
- 10/14 Academy Board Meeting 6:15 PM
- 10/16 End of 1st Quarter
- 10/19 Planned Start of Full School
- 10/22 No School—Teacher Work Day
- 10/23 No School—Fall Break
-
- 10/26
- 10/27 Students Return from Fall Break
- 10/27 Report Cards Sent Home



From the Director

Month One

We are now three weeks into the strangest school year any of us have ever seen. For example, the health protocols alone require a steep learning curve, let alone the online classes and changes in technology. By working together and remaining flexible, we’ve manage to reopen school. I wouldn’t go so far as to say we are thriving yet; instead, I would say we are holding our own (which in this day and age is still an accomplishment).

One of the toughest parts of all of this is that each day we all face situations we’ve never seen before. From the littlest of things like remembering to wash masks on the delicate cycle to the biggest decisions, we always have to think through something new. For Crown Pointe, it reminds me of opening a new school and being a first year teacher at the same time. Each situation is the first time we’ve encounter something and it all requires a lot of thought.

Yet, we have hundreds of good reasons to do this work right now. Kids, especially the very youngest ones, don’t know how strange these times are. Remarkably they’ve adapted very quickly. The smaller classes, the designated play areas, and the directional arrows on the floors are no big deal to them. I’m very proud of the job our staff has done, but I’m even more astonished at the job our students have done. Keep supporting and encouraging your children because they are amazing.

Our goal is always to get back to “normal” as quickly and safely as possible, even if normal will look different in the future. By doing our very best work now, we are increasing our chances of doing just that. Thanks for the support. When we work together, remain flexible, and communicate often we will continue to handle the challenges that come our way during this year of firsts.

22 Remote Learning Tips for Parents Helping at Home

from Terry Heick at www.teachthought.com/technology/remote-learning-tips-for-parents/ Update September 1, 2020

What is Remote Learning? In short, Remote Learning occurs when teachers and students move a normally in-person class to a temporary online space.

Remote Learning is a *kind* of eLearning (or ‘online learning’) but isn’t ‘online learning’ because it is not learning that is designed for purely digital spaces (whereas eLearning is). So what kind of remote learning tips for parents can help?

In [What Parents Can Do To Help Support Reading At Home](#), I talked about the ways families can model and support literacy in the home. Below, I offer a continuum of remote learning tips for parents and families (perhaps suddenly) working with children at home.

Three Quick Prefaces

1. These are not meant to be viral tips that blow your mind but rather some basic advice to save your sanity and help your child have their best chance for success learning at home.
2. I’ve arranged it from ‘Basic Remote Learning Tips’ to ‘Advanced Remote Learning Tips.’ The idea of the first set of remote learning tips is to provide bare minimum guidance for parents who are trying to wrap their heads around this shift to online learning in K-12 public education—more or less a, ‘If nothing else, make sure that you...’ approach. If you can imagine car maintenance tips, while some could be very advanced (e.g., make sure the car’s alignment suits the way the car is used on a daily basis, make sure engine management software is updated to the latest version, etc.) an ‘if nothing else’ approach to such maintenance might be, “Make sure the car doesn’t run out of gas’ and ‘Make sure the engine has oil.’
3. As I alluded to in the introduction, a final underlying assumption here is that a curriculum is already set (whether it’s a public education curriculum from your local school district or an off-the-shelf homeschool curriculum). While some of these tips are universal and apply to any learning-at-home scenario, overall this list wasn’t created for parents helping their children learn to learn or learn what to learn, nor would this post be much help if you’re trying to create your own customized curriculum for your child. Again—these tips are mainly to help parents who are helping their children complete online learning assignments at home.

With that in mind, on to the tips.

22 Remote Learning Tips For Parents: Bare Minimum: These are intended to be a set of basic tips that are true for most remote learning situations.

- 1. Set (and keep) a schedule:** The closer this is to a ‘school schedule,’ the easier it will likely be on everyone. You obviously can (and probably should) revise whatever you come up with at first to fit your circumstance at home (your work schedule, sleeping schedules, etc.). But once you’ve got something that works, stick to it. And this almost certainly means to use some sort of timer to at least clarify how much time is being spent on what.
- 2. Make sure they have any materials necessary to complete all assignments:** Whether its pencil and paper, a stable WiFi connection, log-in information for all accounts, a PDF reader, or note-taking apps or reading strategies—whatever they need to get the work done.
- 3. Provide an environment conducive to learning:** This isn’t always easy. If they’re too isolated, it’s difficult to check in with them. If they’re at the kitchen table, depending on the child or their environment, they may be too distracted. This is even more challenging when everyone is home and the house is full. Background noise can help, as can music.

4. Create a daily plan: Creating a daily plan isn't just a matter of scheduling. A daily plan looks at the schedule and then identifies to-do items for that day and combines the two for a specific plan for that specific day.

5. Don't teach—help them understand: Helping students understand is one of the more obvious remote learning tips for parents. This could be the topic for an entire book because how this happens is complicated and varies greatly from student to student and grade level to grade level and content area to content area. Imagine the parent of a second-grade student helping them complete an essay on their favorite cookie versus the parent of a high school senior helping them with a Calculus problem or an analysis of Shakespearean versus Petrarchan meter. The former is a matter of sitting with your child, while the latter is going to likely require that you learn alongside your child—or even learn it first yourself and then review it with them after. The bottom line is that helping your child understand the content is definitely part of the 'bare minimum' range of tips.

6. Make sure all work is completed: And any work that remains incomplete is incomplete for a good reason and has a time-bound, actionable next-step (e.g., email the teacher asking for clarification on step 3 of the activity so that you can turn it in tomorrow by noon).

7. Help them check messages and communicate with school: Check for messages daily from teachers and other students and make sure to reply to any messages that require one.

8. Keep in mind that it's about the child, not the work: This can be difficult for some parents to keep in mind when there is so much pressure (on everyone) to complete the work. And further, this is obviously a parenting philosophy—for some families, it very well may be a matter of discipline to do what you're told and 'do well in school.' If that's true, this tip may not be useful. But if you believe that assignments should serve the child rather than the child serve the assignments—or that this is at least partly true—then don't over-emphasize 'getting everything done' over the well-being (not to mention creative genius and curiosity and intrinsic motivation) of your child.

9. Learn to identify the barriers: This is something teachers have to learn early on in their careers—how to pinpoint exactly what's happening or going wrong (not unlike an automotive mechanic or NASA engineers or computer coder). Diagnostic teaching is one approach that can help here but the big idea is to identify precisely why your child might be struggling: Is it focus? Motivation? Too much or too little structure? Do they need a hug or finger-wagging or for you to sit with them? And if it's a knowledge deficit, exactly what do they not understand? When students say, 'I don't get it,' the first step is to identify exactly what 'it' is—and this isn't always easy. Most students don't know what they don't know. That's why you (and an internet full of resources) are there to help them making this an especially powerful remote learning tip for parents.

10. Use school resources: Contact your child's school, as well as the local school district and state education resources for support. This is especially critical if your child has an IEP or 504 plan and requires additional support and services at school.

Intermediate Remote Learning Tips For Parents: Going the extra mile: Slightly more intermediate tips for parents with the time and resources to dedicate

11. Personalize the learning: You can almost always personalize your child's learning space (sound, light, room, equipment, etc.) and you can likely adjust their schedule. You may even have some control over the curriculum (what they are learning). Use your child's strengths and gifts and build backward from them as much as possible.

12. Encourage a growth mindset: This isn't about what to learn or how to learn but rather how to think about what they're learning.

13. Use the *right* resources: The idea here is to know where to go for what to save time when you—or your child—need something.

14. Mix in Genius Learning: You can read more about [Genius Hour](#) here. The goal is to help empower your child to see learning as something they have control of and that curiosity can lead them anywhere.

15. Organize their learning environment: Or help them organize their learning environments (both physical and digital).

How this happens depends (as with everything else on this list) on your circumstance: Are you using a Learning Management System (LMS)? Are classes meeting live? Daily or weekly? Does your child love learning or has school been a struggle for them? Is there a fixed curriculum? Any flexibility in that fixed curriculum? Are assignments graded? And so on.

Imagine a high school student sitting at a desktop computer in their bedroom logged on to their local school's LMS. They have their iPad open and [Microsoft OneNote](#) open to take notes. Their phone is playing a background noise to help them focus while their physical textbook is open beside the keyboard. They also have their web browser open with multiple tabs open for search, communication, and related learning resources as well as a digital or physical calendar with upcoming due dates for important assignments. And lastly, they have a to-do list and learning plan for that day to guide them. That's one example of a 'learning environment.'

16. Encourage self-direction: This could've gone in the 'basic' sections complicated but at its most basic, the more they own their learning—and ideally have voice and choice in their work—the easier and more fulfilling everything will be for everyone.

17. Honor the complexity of learning: Think differently about 'helping' your child 'with their school work.' Realize that your child needs a wide range of 'support': academic, collaborative, psychological, technological, disciplinary, etc.

18. Help them find their own motivation: I tried to word this carefully because children range so drastically in not only their levels of motivation and where that motivation comes from. Further, the dynamic of parent-to-child is necessarily different from the parents-as-teacher-to-child. However, motivating a child is one area where parents are (ideally) better than any teacher could be. The idea here is to help them 'want to' learn without punishing them psychologically or making all motivation external and independent from the actual value of the knowledge being gleaned.

Advanced Remote Learning Tips For Parents

Obviously, these would only apply for some remote learning situations but if you're really ambitious, you could consider trying to do the following:

19. Understand how the brain works and how learning happens: [Learning theories](#) and [neuroscience basics](#) are two good places to start. [Transfer](#) is also an important concept.

20. Gamify the learning: Offer points, levels, challenges, visible markers of progress, etc. You can read more about [the definition of gamification](#) here and about [how gamification uncovers the nuance of learning](#).

21. Help your child build a learning network: Connect them with their peers—ideally peers with similar goals and approaches to 'life' to their own (e.g., connecting your child who wants to study medicine in college with other students and groups with students who have similar ambitions.)

22. Help them understand the value of specific knowledge and changing knowledge demands: Further, emphasize critical thinking (learning how to think) and learning literacy (learning how to learn) over content knowledge (academic knowledge). This is probably more of a homeschooling tip than a remote learning tip but ideally it would happen in any formal learning scenario.



Staff Extensions (303) 428-1882

324	Arner, Celeste	Kitchen
219	Austin, Tammie	Kindergarten Assistant
128	Bandel, Denise	In House Substitute
223	Bonadonna, Janet	2nd Grade Assistant
407	Camp, Morgan	3rd Grade Teacher
410	Felten, Adina	4th Grade Teacher
103	Fiorini, Leslie	Front Office
102	Gerber, Trisha	Front Office
406	Gonzalez, William	6-8 Spanish Teacher
218	Granado, Alicia	Kindergarten Assistant
412	Hardy, Liz	5th Grade Teacher
336	Hernandez, Diane	Evening Custodian
523	Hill, Kimberly	Middle School Assistant
211	Holmes, Liann	1st Grade Teacher
212	Hubin, Ashley	2nd Grade Teacher
514	Hughes, Bonnie	Middle School Social Studies Teacher
104	Jaime, Felicia	Health Aide
221	Johnson, Velvet	1st Grade Assistant
107	Keyes, Erin	Assistant Director
115	Knutson, Kari	School Counselor
210	Koehn, Kala	1st Grade Teacher
409	Kokoszka, Jessie	4th Grade Teacher
222	Lacert, Abbi	2nd Grade Assistant
511	Laxton, Meghan	Middle School Language Arts Teacher
510	MacGregor, Matt	Middle School Math Teacher
105	MacGregor, Sandi	Executive Secretary
419	Martinez, Norma	4th Grade Assistant
326	Munier, Morgan	Day Custodian
420	Neuhalfen, Kendall	4th Grade Assistant
521	O'Connor, Katie	Middle School Assistant
307	O'Neal, Pam	Music Teacher
106	Ouweneel, Keith	Director
512	Pernell, Typhany	Middle School Math Teacher
408	Pilbeam, Jennifer	3rd Grade Teacher
402	Ring, Anna	K-5 Spanish Teacher
504	Roe, Marcia	Middle School Science Teacher
421	Ross, Brenda	5th Grade Assistant
209	Rullo, Rosie	Kindergarten Teacher
415	Sandoval, Jessica	Special Education Assistant
422	Schreckengast, Jennifer	5th Grade Assistant
511	Scott, Jay	Middle School Language Arts Teacher
600	Sherlock, Evan	IT/Art and Expo Teacher
314	Shields, Wendi	Kitchen
418	Sinclair, Jennie	3rd Grade Teacher
405	Smeltzer, Danielle	Special Education Teacher
220	Smiley, Melba	1st Grade Assistant
416	Sunday, LuCinda	3rd Grade Assistant
313	Southern, Julie	Middle School Electives Teacher
213	Strass, Monica	2nd Grade Teacher
306	Strick, Peggy	Librarian

Staff e-mail Formula:

firstname.lastname@crownpointeacademy.org

Check your student's grades and attendance
anytime from the

Infinite Campus Parent Portal

Pick up your login info at the school office.

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208	Sullivan, Jackie	Kindergarten Teacher
318	Varner, AJ	Physical Education Teacher
411	Wetmore, Melanie	5th Grade Teacher
502	Worley, Paula	Middle School SEL Teacher/GT Coordinator

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