



CRESCENT ACADEMY INTERNATIONAL

Faith • Knowledge • Unity • Service

March 31, 2020

Crescent Academy International Distance Learning Plan 2020

Asalaamu alaykum wa rahmatullahi wa barakatuhu. May the peace of blessings of Allah (swt) be upon you and your families.

In the most recent communication from Governor Whitmer, it was intimated that it is very *unlikely* schools will reopen again this academic year. SubhanAllah. While we are deeply saddened that we may not get the chance to spend the blessed month of Ramadan together with our students and our families, nor share the joys of the graduation and honor ceremonies in person, we will look for ways to commemorate these blessed events in other ways, Insha'Allah. We also wish to recognize the generosity of our Lord for the blessings of being able to wait out this pandemic in the comfort of our homes with fresh water, warmth, food and our loved ones, Alhumdulillah.

"...But Allah planned, and Allah is the best of planners." (Surah Ali Imran 3:54)

In the process of evaluating the extent to which this current pandemic would interrupt the schooling experience, we made the decision to approach the transition to distance (remote) learning in 3 distinct phases. Phase 1 was to call an early *Spring Break* for our students while staff made preparations for the long-term distance learning reality.

Phase 2, which comes to an end this week, was intentionally designed to ease families into the distance learning reality with fewer demands. To embed learning within the lived experience. We wanted to give families time to work through the stress from the shelter in place directive, to get accustomed to the new routines at home, and to find a way to balance the demands of school and work taking place remotely, and simultaneously, from home. We intentionally chose to use tools that parents and students were already familiar with to lighten the learning curve (email, Weebly, IXL and ThinkCERCA). During this phase, we gathered data to see what resources and capacities our families had to engage in online distance learning, so that as we moved forward, we did so equitably, ensuring that all students would have access to the online learning management system and the materials required to participate in distance learning.

As you know, Crescent's curricular approach has always been about creating a hands-on, holistic, balanced, and experiential learning environment where technology is used as a tool to enhance student learning rather than being the delivery platform for that learning. Therefore, transitioning to an entirely online learning management system requires a lot of planning and skill development for everyone--students, staff, and parents, especially given that most of our students are still in elementary school and are not independent enough to use these tools without parental assistance.

"Verily, Allah has prescribed excellence in everything..." (Sahih Muslim)

Therefore, Phase 3, that may well stretch through the rest of the year, involves moving all learning to the Google Classroom (GC) management system. We will utilize both synchronized (real time) and asynchronous (independent, but remote) learning within the GC and its integrated tools like Zoom and Youtube, in combination with our other subscription programs like IXL (K-3), Discovery Education, and ThinkCERCA (4-8), as well as a plethora of other online tools and resources our staff either already uses or is planning to use to engage students.

*Michigan Education Council (MEC) dba Crescent Academy International (CAI)
A Registered 501(c)3 Not for Profit Education Organization
40440 Palmer Road • Canton, MI 48188 • (734) 729-1000 • Fax (734) 729-1004*



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Since this learning environment is unique, it requires its own set of roles and responsibilities specific to the school, parents, staff, and students. The specifics of the plan are outlined below, and a separate document that explains the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholder groups is attached. Please note that the data collected in the survey has shaped this plan, however, that does not mean it will be an ideal fit for everyone. We will work with you the best we can to overcome barriers. We fully expect that when students engage in the plan as full participants successfully, they will have completed their grade level curricular expectations and will be promoted to the next grade level. These days will count as instructional days for our students.

The Distance Learning Plan (DLP)

- CAI has decided upon the Google Classroom (GC) learning management system and integrated tools like Zoom and Youtube for all distance learning. All students will be issued Crescent email addresses to appropriately access their teacher's GC's.
 - Email addresses will be sent to parents directly which will allow parents/students to log in to GC
 - PreK-5
 - CMS already has access to their email address
- The DLP will consist of:
 - Providing a learning plan 5 days per week (M-F) that entails 3-5 hours of work time per day, depending upon the grade level. Higher grade levels are expected to work for longer periods of time as is developmentally appropriate.
 - Continuation of the morning and afternoon halaqa and the daily khatara accessible from the GC page.
 - Teachers will develop a weekly overview learning plan to be shared with parents and students. This plan will include:
 - Area of study (ELA, Math, QA, etc.)
 - The learning goal for each area of study
 - Key learning experiences for the week
 - Major due dates for tests, quizzes, projects, etc.
 - Resources needed for that week's learning plan
 - The weekly overview will be shared directly on the GC platform as well as the Weebly.
 - Teachers will host synchronized (live via Zoom) sessions as needed.
 - Synchronized sessions (live via Zoom) will also be recorded for the benefit of those students who are unable to attend the live sessions due to barriers beyond their control.
 - During synchronized sessions, the Crescent dress code will be required for all participants joining with video
 - Modest, long and loose, clothing
 - Hijab for all girls, 5th grade and higher
 - Asynchronous learning will utilize a wide variety of digital tools, and both online and offline work.
 - We are moving forward with the understanding that at least initially, there will be no access to the building to retrieve books and other belongings.
 - Teachers will list materials needed on the weekly overview plan.
 - Reflection and reconnection activities that will not be graded. These enrichment experiences will be posted for the benefit of families looking for additional ways to connect and learn together as time permits.

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- All assigned work during this period will be graded/assessed. We will continue to issue grades, progress reports and report cards through PowerSchool. Grades and progress reports will be sent electronically, but report cards will be printed out and mailed after the close of the academic year as soon as building access is regained.
- Teachers will set up scheduled time to respond to students and parents within the regular workday. Please see your child's GC "Stream" page for the teacher's posted availability.
- Regular communication with students is of paramount importance. Please inform your child's teachers directly of any barriers to executing the learning plan in your home. We will problem solve with you to work it out.
- The school administrative team will continue to communicate with families via email, Remind texts, and Facebook.

Please remember that this is new to all of us, and we may need to adjust as we go along to ensure that we are providing the very best distance learning experience possible for our Crescent families. Therefore, we ask you to be patient through this process, and to share any barriers, difficulties, ideas or suggestions for improvement as we embark on this journey together.

May Allah (swt) bless our efforts to overcome the obstacle of sheltering in place, and to deliver a comprehensive and integrated distance learning experience to our beloved families. And may He continue to keep all of you, your loved ones, and our front-line health care workers fighting the brave fight against this disease every day, safe and well always, Ameen.

Jazakum Allahu Khayran,

Crescent Academy International Administration