

Middle School and High School Expectations for Distance Learning

Daily distance learning assignments will be posted on Google Classroom by 8:00 a.m. by classroom teachers. Some teachers may post assignments in advance. Students should then participate in online learning throughout the school day as they would during a regular, on-campus school day. Assignment calendars and clear expectations for students and parents will be posted on Google Classroom.

Students should plan to dedicate a similar amount of time on their online coursework as they would during a typical on-campus school day. Students should check in with classroom teachers regularly to inform them that they are working on their assignments. Teachers will plan learning activities and assignments based on the time that they expect students to spend completing the work assigned.

All daily classroom assignments need to be completed according to the class schedules on Google Classroom. Treat distance learning responsibilities with the same high regard as on-campus academic responsibilities. Students will have daily work for their classes. Students should check Google Classroom for assignments every day for each class, including days that they do not have a live video call for a class.

Distance learning days are school days; therefore, incomplete work, work not completed with effort or quality, and late work will be handled in the same way as assignments assigned on campus and following handbook guidelines.

All distance learning work needs to be submitted according to the teacher's expectations outlined on their Google Classroom page.

Proactively communicate with your teachers and principal as questions and needs arise.

Be aware of, and use, the teachers' office hours. Teachers will typically respond to questions and meet with students up until 3:30 PM on weekdays. However, if a question is asked after that time, it is reasonable to not expect a response until the following workday.

Report technical problems as quickly as possible to SCS Tech Support, techsupport@scs.edu.do. Be proactive about solving any problems. Lack of access to Google Classroom or Zoom will not excuse distance learning expectations. Students should inform their teacher and the secondary office at that moment if you are missing a live online class due to technical issues in order to have the absence excused.

Frequently Asked Questions:

How is attendance being tracked?

Students will be marked absent if they do not attend an online class. When students are in live online classes, they should have their cameras on and are expected to participate. If a student experiences technical difficulties and is unable to turn on a camera, he/she should notify the teacher and participate in the lesson verbally or through the written chat. Students will be marked absent on Wednesday if they do not attend their Advisory class.

If a student is sick or unable to attend the live virtual class the parent should call the school office to notify them of their child's absence, the same as if we were on campus. The number of absences from class for a school year still follows the regulations of the Ministry of Education; this includes both excused and unexcused absences.

May my child travel on school days since we are learning online?

Whatever class your child misses due to traveling or not having access to the Internet will still result in missed content and possibly cause them to get behind in their work. It is better to have the child in a stable working environment with Internet access while distance learning.

If you decide to travel, students are still expected to complete all work that is posted in the Google Classroom and meet the due dates. They may be excused from the live classrooms, but they will be marked absent.

What are the afternoon office hours for teachers?

Secondary teachers are available between 1:00-3:30 PM to help students in individual or small-group meetings. They will also be answering questions via email. Students should reach out to teachers to schedule a time to meet if they would like help. Teachers are also available on Wednesday when they are not in advisory or leading a club.

Do students have extra time to turn in work?

Middle School: Students in middle school may turn their work in late and still receive credit. We highly encourage students to turn in work on time to develop good work habits and prepare them for high school.

High School: Students in high school may turn in their work up to a week late with a minor penalty. After a week, students may not receive more than 80% for their grade. Students in high school will not be allowed to turn in late work or make up missing work once a summative assessment (test, project, essay) has taken place in a class. Students should have all work

completed and turned in before the summative assessments in their classes. All missing assignments after a summative assessment will become a 0 and cannot be made up.

Can my child re-take tests?

Any re-takes are at the discretion of the teacher and need to be worked out with that individual teacher. There is no school policy for allowing students to have re-takes on assessments.

If my child has technology issues, will they lose points or be marked absent?

As long as parents contact the office letting us know of the issues involved with the absence, the absence will be marked as unexcused. Students will not be penalized for missing the class due to technology problems and would be expected to make up the work without penalty. It is important that the school office is notified of any technology or internet issues at home.

Can my child write papers on his/her smartphone?

No, it is best to have a computer/laptop or a tablet with a keyboard.

How many hours should students work during the day?

Students are expected to work full days even while distance learning. They have online classes in the morning they should attend, and time in the afternoon to work on asynchronous assignments. If students have opted to join clubs or extra-curricular activities, they may need to work on assignments in the evening just like they would if they were attending on campus.