Learning platform: software that allows teachers to create, organize, and deliver content (ex: Google Classroom, Canvas, or Schoology)

Video conferencing tools: software that allows for virtual face-to-face meetings (ex: Zoom, Microsoft Teams, or Google Meet)

QUESTIONS FAMILIES SHOULD ASK THEIR SCHOOL

Don’t be afraid to ask questions!
Be proactive and ask in advance!

SET A SCHEDULE

- What does my child have to do to be considered “present” for digital learning?
- What are the expectations for when my child should log in to the learning platform?
- What time should my child log in to the video conferencing tool for live instruction?
- What are some organization tips, like setting a timer or making a to do list, that my child can use to stay on top of his/her school work?
- How long should I expect my child to be completing school work or attending live instruction each day?
- How many breaks should I schedule for my child during the day?
- How long should I expect my child to sit in front of the computer each day?
- What should my child’s schedule look like for each day?

CHOOSE A GOOD PLACE TO LEARN

- What are some ways I can better organize my child’s workspace and help manage other distractions?
- At what age should my child be near an adult while learning at home? At what age should they be able to work completely independently?
- What school supplies are necessary while my child is learning at home?
- Will the school issue my child a laptop or tablet for learning at home? If so, when should I expect to receive the device?
- What are resources I can use to talk with my child about digital safety?
- Will my child’s video have to be on when using the learning platform or video conferencing tool?
- Can my student use the “chat” feature in the learning platform or video conferencing tool?
- Is there a way to turn off the “chat” feature so my child can focus while doing their work?
STAY IN TOUCH WITH TEACHERS

- Where can I find directions for logging in to the learning platform?
- How do I report inappropriate behavior from other students?
- What is the best way to contact my child’s teacher? When is the best time?
- How quickly should I expect a response from my child’s teacher?
- What are the expectations for when assigned work should be completed? Daily? Weekly?
- What if my child cannot attend a live session or sign in to the learning platform at the specified time?
- If my child has to miss class for a doctor’s appointment, how do we submit the doctor’s excuse?
- What is the grading policy?
- What happens if my child turns in an assignment late?
- When should I expect my child to receive feedback on work that has been submitted?
- What are some specific strategies I can use to help my child with school work?

HELP CHILDREN “OWN” THEIR LEARNING

- What work should my child be completing independently?
- How much “help” is too much help?
- What do I do when my child is struggling and becomes frustrated?
- Where can I find additional resources to help my child when completing assignments?
- What other resources can be used to complete the school work? When are these resources not allowed?
- What are the consequences of cheating (not completing the work independently)?
- What if we do not have the necessary supplies to complete the school work?

MANAGE STRESS AND SCREEN TIME

- What are some ways I can help my child manage stress?
- What are some ways I can help my child stay motivated?
- What are some resources I can use to encourage physical activity and movement during the school day?
- What are some ways I can manage my child’s screen time to balance school work and enjoyment?

CHECK OUT mdek12.org/MSConnects to find more resources, tips, and videos!