



April 1, 2020

Dear ECHO Parents,

We want to take a moment to connect with our parents and thank you for your flexibility during this difficult time. We appreciate your continued patience as we navigate through the provision of supports and opportunities for your children under the existing circumstances. This letter includes updates and information regarding our E-Learning process, and our spring break. We will keep you updated regarding any changes to our school programs which may result from Governor Pritzker's actions.

### **What are Remote Learning Days?**

Remote Learning Days are an opportunity for students to learn from home on days when school otherwise would have been canceled due to weather conditions or other emergency situations. On Remote Learning Days, students use their home computer, or mobile device to log into the ECHO website to access assignments for the day and submit their attendance. A mobile device could include a smart phone which has Internet access. ECHO will also make non-digital packets available for students to access instructional content.

### **Thursday, April 2 through Thursday April 30, 2020 will be Remote Learning Days**

Our Remote learning days will begin on Thursday April 2, 2020. Remote learning includes both digital and nondigital learning opportunities. Instructional packets would be available for students who may not be able to access our online learning activities. Our Remote learning will be a blend of different learning approaches which include videos, independent work and student centered activities. Classroom teachers will communicate with their students to provide specific information about assignments. Students were recently assigned individual email addresses so that they may receive information from their teachers in one location.

#### **Remote Learning Information for ECHO Students and Parents**

<b>How long will Remote learning be used?</b>	We receive our guidance from decisions made by Governor Pritzker and the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). They have not provided us with an end date for Remote learning. At this time, however, all schools will be closed through April 30, 2020.
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## Remote Learning Information for ECHO Students and Parents

<p><b>How do parents and students check in with their teachers?</b></p>	<p>All ECHO employees have email addresses and email messages are a great way to connect with teachers and other staff. The format for the email address is firstname.lastname@echoja.org. For example, if your child's teacher is Susan Jones, her email address would be susan.jones@echoja.org.</p> <p>While staff will generally be available from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., they may have meetings or instructional related tasks scheduled during those times. Please allow them time to respond to your email. Additionally, staff will be available with 'office hours' for families.</p> <p>We are also using Microsoft Teams, which will be accessible to students and families as of April 2, 2020. Each teacher has a 'Classroom' set up with all team members included (Speech Therapists, OTs, Paraprofessionals, etc.).</p> <p>We are trying to build the best possible system to engage with you and your children although currently it is a work in progress.</p>
<p><b>How do students know what they are supposed to do for each class on the specific day?</b></p>	<p>The teams are working on building 'assignments' and activities for students. They will share assignments and activities through the Classroom part of Microsoft Teams. Parents will be provided with directions on how to access student email and Classroom through a document from their program principals.</p>
<p><b>How will attendance be taken?</b></p>	<p>Attendance will be determined by students' completion of assignments. Parents will be contacted if students are not completing work or if they are in need of support.</p>

## Assessments & Other Current Information

### Illinois Testing Information

Governor JB Pritzker's Executive Order 2020-15 suspends state assessments for spring 2020, including the Constitution exam. This action officially ends assessment activity statewide for the Illinois Assessment of Readiness, Illinois Science Assessment, SAT, and Dynamic Learning Maps-Alternate Assessment for the 2019-20 school year.

### Internet Access

For those families that do not have internet access at home, Comcast is providing free internet access during this time. You can find out more information, should you need internet access, at the following website: <https://www.internetessentials.com/covid19>

### Breakfast & Lunch Pickup

Starting Monday April 6, breakfast and lunch pickup is available on Mondays and Thursdays from 9 am to 12 p.m. There will be no lunch pickup on April 13 or April 16 due to spring break. The pickup location is the main entrance of ECHO School located at 350 W. 154th Street, South Holland. There are school districts in the vicinity of ECHO programs that are available to provide breakfast and lunch during our spring break this information is posted on ECHO website.

### How do I stay informed?

The best way to stay informed is through authorized school communication. For current and accurate district information, please visit [www.echoja.org](http://www.echoja.org).

### You may also follow us on social media :

- Twitter: @echojoint
- Instagram: @echojoint

We want to thank you again for your patience and understanding as we have dealt with these unprecedented times. Stay Safe and Healthy

Sincerely,

*Sandra Thomas*

Dr. Sandra Thomas  
ECHO Joint Agreement Superintendent