

CONVERSATIONS WITH THE SUPERINTENDENT

May 12, 2020

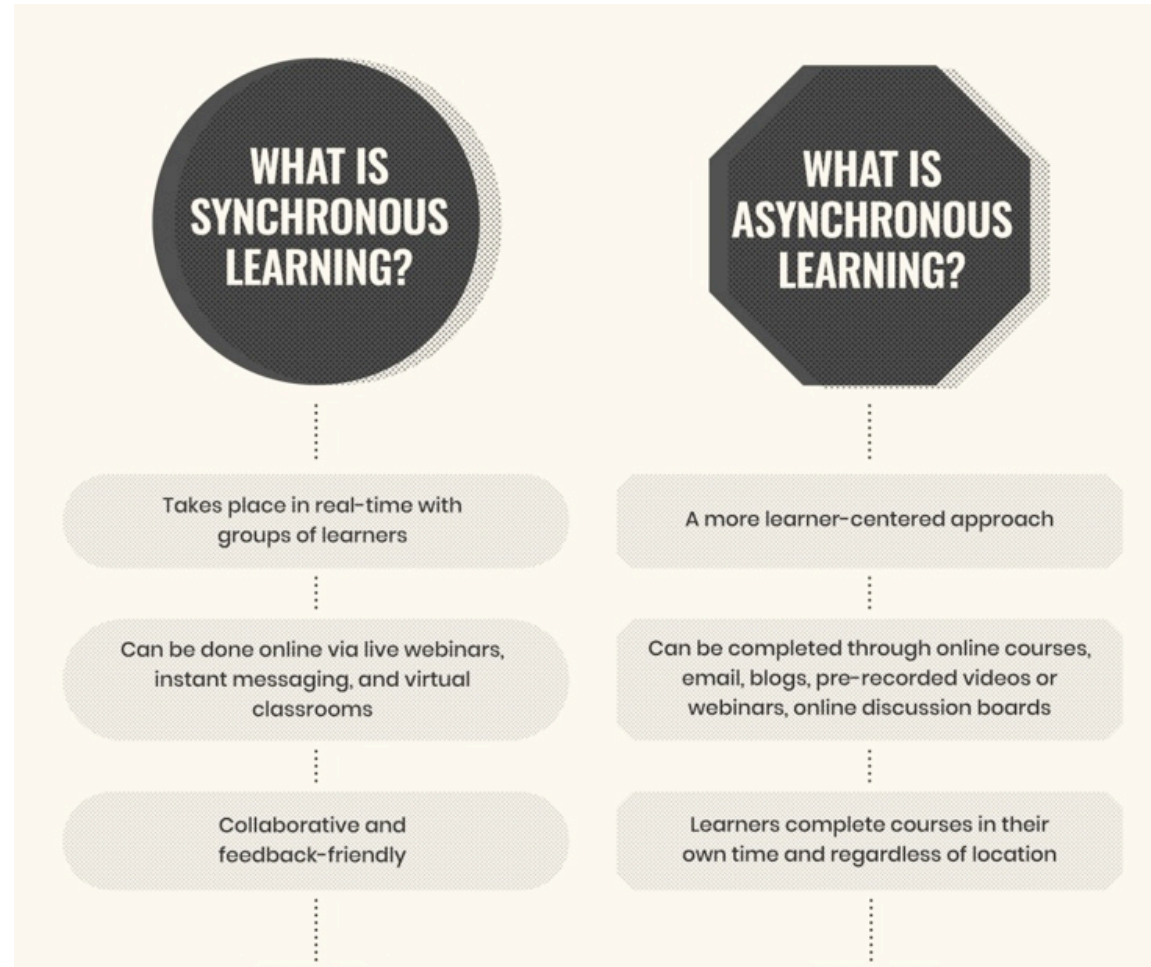


AGENDA

- Virtual Learning and Survey Feedback
- Planning for End-of-Year
- Your questions and feedback



VIRTUAL LEARNING DAYS



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- Closter is using a blended model.
 - Provides families with more flexibility
 - Screen time is potentially reduced
 - Zoom classes are synchronous and are used for follow-up to instruction and assignments
 - Teachers have been following the grade level curriculum standards since the first virtual learning day and will continue to do so for the remainder of the year.



VIRTUAL LEARNING DAYS

- Our initial plan was revised after the school closure was extended to May 15, and subsequently through June 19, 2020.
 - An increase in the number of pre-recorded lessons once we knew the school building closure would be longer than two weeks;
 - Zoom sessions changed to mandatory for students and teachers were asked to use those sessions to check that students are making academic progress;
 - Zoom sessions with only one student now require a paraprofessional, and,
 - Feel-good Fridays to allow specialists to provide activities; and for teachers to have time for planning, providing feedback to students, and recording lessons.



VIRTUAL LEARNING DAYS

**Teachers are working very hard.
Online learning takes more time to deliver.**

Students are working hard.

Parents are working hard.

It takes a village to make this work!



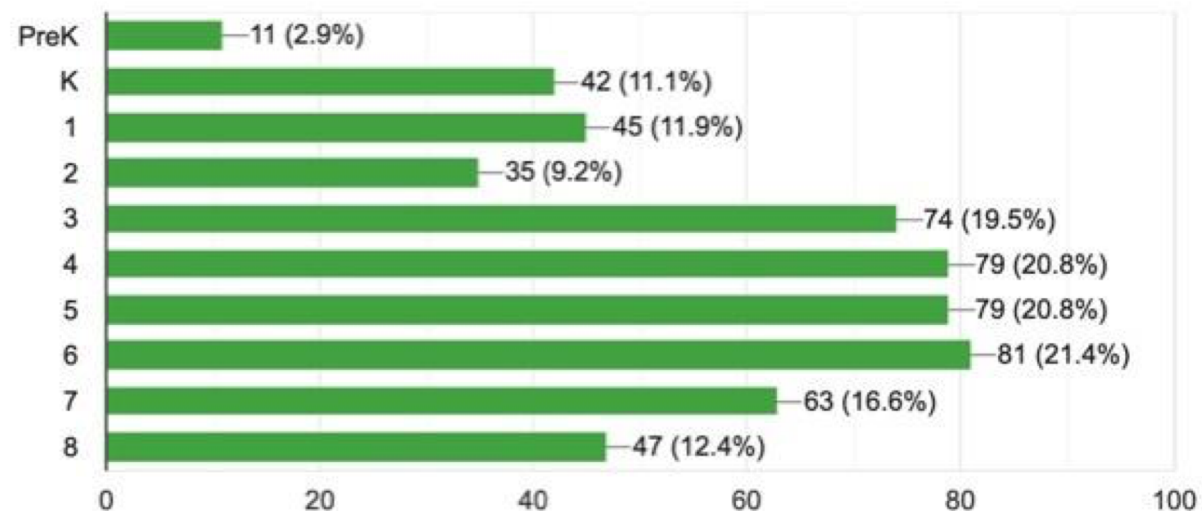
FEEDBACK FROM PARENTS

There were 379 parent responses. This is approximately a 48% response rate, based on 792 families in district.

By school: Parents of 286 Hillside students; parents of 270 Tenakill students (177 of parents responding had students in both schools.)

Grade of student (s) (select all that apply)

379 responses



PARENT FEEDBACK

I am satisfied with the Closter Public Schools virtual learning days.

Strongly agree: 22.5%

Agree: 65.1%

87.6%

Disagree: 10.2%

Strongly disagree: 2.2%

Hillside

- 31 strongly agree
- 50 agree
- 22 disagree
- 1 strongly disagree

Tenakill

- 27 strongly agree
- 56 agree
- 10 disagree
- 5 strongly disagree

Students in Hillside and Tenakill:

- 35 strongly agree
- 131 agree
- 10 disagree
- 1 strongly disagree



PARENT FEEDBACK

I am satisfied with the amount of video lessons posted and live Zoom classes that have been occurring over the past week.

Strongly agree: 20.4%

Agree: 57.1%

77.5%

Disagree: 20.7%

Strongly disagree: 1.8%

Hillside

- 29 strongly agree
- 42 agree
- 32 disagree
- 1 strongly disagree

Tenakill

- 24 strongly agree
- 48 agree
- 21 disagree
- 5 strongly disagree

Students in Hillside and Tenakill:

- 49 strongly agree
- 103 agree
- 24 disagree
- 1 strongly disagree



PARENT FEEDBACK

How much of the day is your child spending on virtual learning day activities:

Less than 30 minutes: 1.1%

30-90 minutes: 17.1%

2-3 hours: 44%

76.7%

4-5 hours: 32.7%

More than 5 hours: 5.1%

I would describe the current DAILY workload for students as:

Not enough work: 21.1%

Just enough work: 68.4%

Too much work: 10.5%



PARENT FEEDBACK

The Closter Public Schools virtual learning days have been flexible and allow enough time to complete assignments.

Strongly agree:	32.7%	96%
Agree:	63.3%	
Disagree:	3.3%	
Strongly disagree:	0.7%	

Does your child have reliable access to a smartphone, tablet, laptop, or computer to complete the virtual learning day assignments?

Yes:	99.6%
No:	0.4%



PARENT FEEDBACK

What best describes your child's typical Internet access?

My child does not have reliable access to the internet: 1.8%

My child has reliable internet access, but only through a Smartphone: 0%

My child has reliable internet access, but it's slow: 9.8%

My child has reliable access to high-speed internet: 88.4%

How has your child been academically handling the six weeks of virtual learning days?

Doing well and able to keep up with assignments: 72.1%

Having some difficulty keeping up with assignments: 24.3%

Having great difficulty keeping up with assignments: 3.7%



PARENT FEEDBACK

Would you like a school counselor to reach out to you?

Yes: 2.9%

No: 97.1%

What is the best way for administrators to communicate information about virtual learning days with you?

Email: 79.6%

Phone blast: 0.4%

Text message 12%

Video: 5.5%

Website: 2.5%



FEEDBACK FROM STUDENTS

There were 259 student responses. The survey was administered to students in grades 3 through 8 only. This represents about a 32% response rate.

3rd Grade:	57 students (22%)
4th Grade:	52 students (18%)
5th Grade:	36 students (14.3%)
6th Grade:	46 students (18.4%)
7th Grade:	41 students (16.3%)
8th Grade:	27 students (11%)

Percentages on this slide indicate the percent of total student responses.



STUDENT FEEDBACK

In the past week, how much of your day do you usually spend in virtual learning or completing schoolwork?

less than 30 minutes: 2%

30 to 90 minutes: 14.8%

2 to 3 hours: 51.6%

4 to 5 hours: 26%

more than five hours: 5.6%

77.6%

In the past week, how challenging has your schoolwork been?

Not at all challenging: 5.6%

Slightly challenging: 37.2%

79.2%

Somewhat challenging: 42%

Quite challenging: 13.6%

Extremely challenging: 1.6%



STUDENT FEEDBACK

How confident are you that you can complete your assigned virtual learning work each week?

Not at all confident: 8%

Slightly confident: 9.2%

Somewhat confident: 19.2%

Quite confident: 44.8%

Extremely confident: 26%

70.8%

How often do you have an adult at home who helps you complete the virtual learning day assignments?

Almost never: 34%

Once in a while: 22.8%

Sometimes: 20%

Frequently: 7.6%

Almost always: 15.6%



STUDENT FEEDBACK

How easy is it for you to use the virtual learning day tools the school provided (Google sites, Schoology, Zoom, etc.)?

Not easy at all: 1.6%

Slightly easy: 4.8%

Somewhat easy: 15.2%

Quite easy: 44.4%

Extremely easy: 34%

78.4%

I know how to find my daily/weekly virtual learning assignments.

Yes: 98.4%

No: 1.6%

Have you attended the mandatory live Zoom classes this week?

Yes: 93.2%

No: 6.8%



STUDENT FEEDBACK

If you haven't attended a Zoom session, why not? (Open-ended responses) Number indicates the number of responses.

Too early in the morning (8)

Teacher didn't provide enough notice/Changed times (5)

Don't think it is necessary because teachers and students don't interact (4)

Responses continued...

Lack of Organization (2)

Fear/anxiety of being on camera (2)

Didn't know they were mandatory (2)

Technical issues (1)

Don't know how to use Zoom (1)



STUDENT FEEDBACK

The virtual learning days have been flexible and allow me enough time to complete assignments.

Strongly agree: 16.7%

Agree: 70.7%

Disagree: 10.6%

Strongly disagree: 2%

87.4%

What has been your experience using technology from home (check all that apply):

**I have had no issues or problems:
77.3%**

I have been unable to access the assignment: 9.6%

I don't have reliable internet access:
6%

I don't have a device: 3%

Other: 4.1% (mostly tech glitches or Schoology not working)



STUDENT FEEDBACK

What is something your teacher(s)/your school is doing well right now?

Spending time with us on Zoom (30)

Communication frequently (28)

Organization (23)

Helping us learn new things (17)

Amount of work provided (14)

Being emotionally supportive (13)

Responses continued...

Giving clear directions (11)

Explaining (11)

Being flexible (9)

Videos (8)

Holding accountable for assignments (6)

**number in parentheses is number of students who provided that response*



STUDENT FEEDBACK

How have you been academically handling the six weeks of virtual learning days?

Doing well and able to keep up with assignments: 68.2%

Having some difficulty keeping up with assignments: 29.8%

Having great difficulty keeping up with assignments: 2%

How have you been emotionally handling the six weeks of virtual learning days?

Not affected: 58%

Some emotional difficulty or anxiety: 40.7%

Significant emotional impact: 1.2%



STUDENT FEEDBACK

Is there any additional support you need to help you complete the online learning assignments?

Yes: 9.2%

No: 90.8%

If yes, please explain.

Mom/Dad helps me (8)

More Zoom sessions (2)

More explanation about what we are learning (2)

Provide alternative assignments that are not online (1)



STUDENT FEEDBACK

What other comments, questions, or concerns do you have at this time?

When will we return to school? (9)

How will we be graded? (2)

Could we have more Zoom classes? (2)

Less Zoom classes, please! (2)

Middle School Specials schedule should update more often (1)

Responses continued...

Tough to have Zooms at same time as sibling (1)

Due dates posted on Schoology calendar (1)

**number in parentheses is number of students who provided that response*



PLANNING FOR END-OF-YEAR

- Since the Governor has announced schools will be closed through June 30, 2020, the administrators have arranged plans for students to pick-up their personal items.
 - Tenakill Middle Schools students can sign-up for a “locker clean out” timeslot at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e4aa5a62ea2fe3-student>. This is already in progress and continues through Friday, May 22, 2020.
 - The Hillside Elementary School staff will be bagging all student personal items and will announce the sign-up for pick-up by the end of May 2020. Again, thanks to our teachers who are doing this task on top of everything else that they are doing!



PLANNING FOR END-OF-YEAR

- On May 9, 2020, Colonel Patrick Callahan, State Director of Emergency Management, issued a letter to all districts stating, *“in-person ceremonies, including graduations, all parades, including ‘wave parades’ that invite people to gather at a certain location, proms, and other similar celebrations violate the enumerated conditions of Executive Order No. 107, and should therefore be cancelled or postponed until such time as restrictions are lifted. Until such time, virtual celebrations and other remote forms of recognition should take the place of any in-person or public ceremonies.”*
- Ms. Smith and Mr. Tantum and the PTO leaders are planning virtual celebrations for the fourth grade moving-up and the eighth grade graduation. Once plans are finalized, the principals will notify students and parents.



EXTENDED SCHOOL YEAR PROGRAM (ESY)

- Students with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) that indicates an Extended School Year (ESY) Program will receive that service.
 - If school buildings can reopen after June 30, 2020, the program will be offered in person.
 - If school buildings remain closed, the ESY program will be offered using a virtual learning day plan.



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MONITORING ACADEMIC PROGRESS

Student work for the third trimester will be guided by the following principles:

- Do no harm. Student grades will not be negatively impacted as a result of our shift to virtual learning days. Teachers will be flexible and understanding with grading.
- Hillside will continue its usual grade reporting on the standards based report cards.
- Tenakill Middle School will continue using letter grades as a means of communicating student progress. However, no student will receive a failing grade for any class during the COVID-19 closure period. Grades will be A, B, C, or I (Incomplete). If a student has not completed the school work or is not making adequate progress toward standards, the teachers, school counselor and principal (or assistant principal) will create with the student and his/her parent a plan to complete the assignments, even if this requires submitting completed work in September 2020.
- Specialists (physical education, art, music, etc.) will use Pass/Incomplete to provide grades for students. The specialist will be asking students to provide work samples to demonstrate their learning during this third trimester.



MONITORING ACADEMIC PROGRESS

- Teachers are assessing student progress toward grade level standards as we continue providing virtual learning days through June 19, 2020. The grade level standards for each grade level can be found on our district website:
<https://www.closterschools.org/Curriculum>
- The district will provide on its website summer learning activities that students may complete to avoid the “summer learning slide.”
- In September, all teachers will formally and informally assess students for readiness for the grade level standards. Teachers will provide differentiated support for students who require remediation.



PLANNING FOR RE-OPENING BUILDINGS

- NJDOE has not yet provided any guidance to school districts, other than to tell us to be prepared for possible changes to school operations.
- We most likely will have requirements for social distancing.
- We must also prepare for a full return to virtual day learning if the virus becomes widespread again.
- Whatever happens, we will be prepared.
- We are already planning by purchasing required face masks, hand sanitizer, forehead thermometers, plastic shields for secretary desks, and disinfectant for sanitizing the entire school building daily.
- As soon as I know anything definitive about September, I will let parents know.



**What
questions or
feedback do
you have for
me?**

