

GDOE News Release

March 30, 2020

GDOE Launches Distance Learning Website

The Guam Department of Education is happy to announce the launch of our website to support distance/online learning during this period of school closures.

“We realize that there is a wide variety of learning needs that have to be addressed during this time and we want to give all our students the ability to pursue education and practice their academic and social skills while at home,” said Fernandez. “We anticipate that some GDOE teachers have already reached out to their students and provided subject matter work, but for those who have not been able to do so, there are still many options that are online and free.”

Parents, students and interested individuals can access the Home Learning website at <http://bit.ly/GDOEDistanceLearning> or through the GDOE Main Page at: www.gdoe.net.

The website is intended to initially provide useful resources for parents to lead instruction at home. Beginning April 6, 2020, weekly instruction will be supported for elementary, middle and high school students along with opportunities for teacher feedback. Accommodations for those without Internet or computer access at home are being explored and will be announced in the near future.

Visitors to the site will immediately see that it is organized for easy access. Parents and students can choose sites that are focused on their specific grade level from elementary, middle and high school. They can utilize sites with or without logins and can work on a variety of subjects ranging from Math and English to Coding and Art.

Low/No Tech Ideas for all

We know that there is a substantial number of students and families who will have little to no access to the internet and online resources. We have some rich and fun options for them as well. They are included below:

Tech free ideas to learn at home

Language Development: rhyming games; clap and count syllables (you say “water” they clap and say “wa-ter 2”); thumbs up rhyme: give two words and they repeat them and give thumbs up if they rhyme; read to a younger sibling or adult.

Reading: For students of all ages, students can practice reading a passage aloud clearly, accurately, and with the right speed and emotion. Then, they can summarize and discuss what they read with other children or adults in the house. Newspapers are great for grades three and above. When reading a newspaper aloud, students can practice “reading like a reporter” on TV.

Writing: write a letter to a friend/teacher or family member; keep a daily journal; write a thank you note; write and illustrate a short story; practice penmanship/letter formation; write the room: walk around the house and write down words you see.

Math: cook or bake with an adult using measurements; go on a shape hunt; sort toys by color/shape/size; measure and record: how far can you jump, toss etc.; teach a sibling/parent/adult how to count, add or subtract.

Science/SS: plant a seed and record observations; go on a nature walk and write down your observations; keep a daily weather report log; plan a trip to somewhere you haven't been. Write your plans.

Health/PE: help prepare a healthy meal; be a food critic with your meal; do stretches as a family or with a partner; eat the rainbow/eat healthy snacks; make up a new sport or game to play.

Art: create a self-portrait with any material you have; draw a mural with chalk; make up a song; put on a talent show; make up a dance routine; create a collage from magazine cut-outs.

Social/Emotional: write/draw your feelings about being home, being away from friends or missing school; play a board game; call a grandparent/friend and ask about their day; practice breathing exercises if feeling anxious; use puppets/stuffed animals to discuss feelings.

Continue learning CHamoru

The CHamoru Studies & Special Projects Division provided lessons for our students who want to continue their language learning. Those interested can check out the website at:

<https://www.learningchamoru.com/login#>

If it's your first time to the site, it will only take a few minutes for you to sign-up and join.

According to Joe Sanchez, Deputy Superintendent of Curriculum and Instructional Improvement, the website will be continually updated with new links and added information. "We realize that there will be many options for parents and students to choose from. We advise them to find the ones that will meet their needs best in each individual household and to set aside time in the day for some fun learning as a family," Sanchez said. "We are committed to providing the best options for everyone so please stay posted as we overcome this crisis together."

For more information, please contact Isa Baza, Public Information Officer, ijbbaza@gdoe.net.