



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
EDUCATION ACTIVITY  
AMERICAS SOUTHEAST DISTRICT  
5701 SANTA FE ROAD  
FT Benning, GEORGIA 31905-2724

April 6, 2020

Good Afternoon Southeast District Families,

Thank you to everyone who provided feedback to assist us with making adjustments to the structure and content of the student day in Digital Learning. As a result of your feedback, we are making adjustments to the digital learning schedule to better meet the needs of students, families, and teachers. Your child's school will provide specific information regarding the changes in their schedule by Friday, April 10th. It is our hope that with increased options and flexibility that it will meet the needs of our families.

In order to make these necessary adjustments, we will need an opportunity to work with our faculty and staff. All schools will continue to provide digital learning this week on their original schedule (Monday – Wednesday).

**Please review the following changes for instruction this week (Thursday-Friday):**

- There will be no virtual face-to-face meetings or teacher office hours on Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup> or Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup>.
- There will be no assignments posted for students to complete on Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup> or Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Students may use these two days, April 9-10, to complete makeup work and submit assignments to their teachers.
- This pertains to all DoDEA schools at Ft Knox, Ft Campbell, Maxwell AFB, Ft Benning, Ft Rucker, Ft Stewart, MCAS Beaufort (Laurel Bay), and Ft Jackson.

Summary of Parent Feedback:

- We received 1,264 parent responses. The overall district response data is as follows:
  1. How would you describe the amount of independent work your student is currently required to do?
    - 7.8% - We could do more
    - 53.2% - It is just about right for our situation
    - 39% - It is too much
  2. How would you describe the amount of time your student is spending in live, virtual instruction with teachers?
    - 16.2% - We need more time with the teachers
    - 62.8% - It is just about right for our situation
    - 21% - There is too much time spent on virtual learning each day
- We analyzed results from the parent data by grade level and school. Common trends found in responses supported the development of the following goals:
  - Goal 1: Reduce the amount of daily screen time for students
  - Goal 2: Create a schedule that allows more flexibility and options for students and parents

- Goal 3: Reduce the number of subjects students are required to participate in for elementary and middle school grades
- Goal 4: Establish a daily standard amount of instructional time for students
- Goal 5: Streamline the digital learning platform to make it easier for students and parents to navigate

We are establishing guidelines to standardize the **approximate amount of time** spent on daily instruction; which includes virtual face-to-face sessions and assigned work. Elementary and middle grades will provide choices for students to spend more or less time on daily instruction at the parents' discretion. The following parameters have been established for daily instructional time:

- PreK – 1.5 hours of daily learning time (options available)
- Kindergarten – 2 hours of daily learning time (options available)
- 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade – 2.5 hours of daily learning time (options available)
- 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade – 4.5 hours of daily learning time with options available to reduce daily learning time
- 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade – 4.5 hours or less of daily learning time

Your child's school will provide additional information with the new school schedule and the options available to parents and students by Friday, April 10th. They will also make you aware of the implementation date for the new school schedule. Again, thank you for your partnership and feedback to guide and inform our work on how we can better support our students and families!

Many thanks for all of the support you have given to our schools!



Christy Huddleston, PhD  
DoDEA Americas Southeast  
District Superintendent