Educational Resources for Parents
During School Closure

The State Department of Education has stated that Oklahoma school districts should not continue education programs or provide virtual education for students at this time. However, we have compiled a list of educational resources for students and families. This document provides parents with educational activities to keep their children engaged in learning during times in which school is closed for an extended period.

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PURPOSE of RESOURCE LIST

1. Keep students engaged in learning
2. Maintain and improve students’ skill levels

School Libraries

- There are many online resources available for students: Resources for Learners. Provide support for research and personal interests of students. The user name and Password for all databases are normannps and normannps.
- Students can check out age appropriate ebooks at Overdrive/Sora by selecting the level of your child’s school at this link: https://soraapp.com/welcome. Click here for Sora Help.
- Each NPS library has their own website. You can access these by going to the district webpage at https://www.normanpublicschools.org, select your child’s school and select Library at the top of your school’s page.

Instructional Technology

The NPS Technology Help Desk can be reached at helpdesk@norman.k12.ok.us or by phone at 366-0536.

- iPad: iPad User Guide, Apple Support Videos, iPad Basics tutorials
- MacBook: Mac Help (online manual), Apple Support YouTube Channel

Internet Access

Cox Low-Cost Internet (Espanol)

AT&T Low-Cost Internet (Espanol)

Extension Opportunities

- Elementary
  - Math Extensions - https://gregtangmath.com/games -- This website has some wonderful games where extended thinking is used to play the math games.
  - Creativity and design - Makerspace at home activities - some of these activities may have items you don’t have around the house, but many are common
everyday items. The best theory behind Makerspace is to use items you have laying around. Creativity and imagination are key to design and creativity. Also encourage your child to use Engineering Design Process makes learning deeper and encourages growth mindset.

- **Literacy and Math** [At home Activities from PBS Kids](https://www.pbs.org/parents/at-home-learning/). Here are several great at-home activities that have multiple levels and focus.
- **Social Studies and Science** - [National Geographic Kids](https://www.nationalgeographic.com/education/). Great site for exploration and discussion.

## Secondary

- For students in grades 8-12, [Khan Academy SAT Practice](https://www.khanacademy.org/test-prep/sat) - 20 hours of practice on Khan Academy is associated with an average 115-point score increase from the PSAT/NMSQT to the SAT, nearly double the average gain without Khan. (Please note 6th and 7th graders may also access this, but it will not be connected to their College Board account since those are opened in 8th grade.)
- [Reading and Writing Practice from College Board](https://students.collegeboard.org/) - tips and tricks for becoming a better reader and writer for standardized testing.
- Great List of Books from [Hoagies Gifted Education Page](https://www.hoagiesgifted.org/) Reading is essential to growth and great thinking.
- [Hoagies Gifted Kids and Teens Page](https://www.hoagiesgifted.org/)

## Sites for all students:

- [Curiosity Makes You Smarter](https://www.curiosity.com/)
- [TedED - Ideas worth Exploring](https://www.ted.com/talks)
- [Science Buddies - Science projects to do at home](https://www.sciencebuddies.org/)
- [Byrdseed.tv](https://byrdseed.tv) -- Great thinking activities explained in short videos.

## SECONDARY STUDENTS (GRADES 6 through 12)

### English/Language Arts Secondary Resources

Reading and writing while away from school is the best way to maintain students’ current skills. Encourage your students to read and write for 30 minutes a day.

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| Independent Reading         | ● Help students figure out what they like to read, what they do not like to read and what they might like to read.  
   ● Talk with your student about what books fit their maturity and your family | [List of Different Reading Lists](https://www.hoagiesgifted.org/) (HS)  
   [Goodreads AP List (HS)](https://www.goodreads.com/group/book/list/14266)  
   [EPIC Reads Lists](https://www.epic.com/) (MS & HS) |

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| **Independent Family Reading & Listening Discussions** | ● Read/listen to the same book as your student and discuss it together.  
● Students love to see their parents in the role of a reader.  
● Ask questions and let them be the expert about the text. | Here are possible discussion questions |
| **Independent Writing/Self Expression** | ● Have your student journal/blog/vlog/audioblog. Challenge them to increase their writing time each day. Use prompts for students struggling to come up with ideas.  
● For those using audio or video formats have students outline/storyboard prior to work on planning.  
● Have your student rewrite a previous entry from a different point of view or pretend to be their favorite author.  
| **Visual Prompts** (MS & HS)  
**Written Prompts** (MS & HS)  
**Creative Nonfiction** (MS & HS)  
**Current Issue Prompts** (MS & HS) | Not every prompt will be appropriate for every student. |
| **Multimodal Literacy** | ● Have your student watch a movie or watch one with them and analyze it.  
● Have them watch two movies on the same topic and compare/contrast them.  
● Explore Common Sense Media’s resources on media literacy with your student. | Questions to help film analysis  
Common Sense Media parent support for media literacy |
| **Miscellaneous** | | Typing Club  
Grammar Exercises  
Khan Academy SAT Practice |

**Math Secondary (Grades 6-12) Resources**

It’s important for students to continue talking about the concepts they are learning in mathematics to maintain their skills. Encourage your students to review their mathematics work for at least 30 minutes a day.

In addition, the news is full of mathematics references. It’s a great opportunity to explore the accurate use of mathematics and discuss the implications of data in the news.

Below are some options for accessing relevant information:
Science Secondary (Grades 6-12) Resources:

It is important to remember that science is all around us. To foster growth in your student’s understanding of the world around them continue to encourage your child to be curious. The National Science Teaching Association (NSTA, 2009) recommends that:

- Students can use the processes of science to observe, ask questions, experiment, tinker, and seek their own understandings of natural and human-made phenomena.
- Foster students’ creative and critical thinking, problem-solving, and resourcefulness through authentic tasks such as cooking, doing household chores, gardening, repairing a bike or other household objects, planning a trip, and other everyday activities.
- Actively engage with your student during mealtime discussions or group games requiring mental or physical skills, or by talking about books they are reading or television programs about science they have watched.
  - Suggested science television programs and video
    - NOVA
    - Nature
    - Netflix science titles
  - Suggested sources for science articles
    - Newsela
    - Science News for Students
    - Scientific American STEM Stories
  - Possible discussion questions:
    - What question was the scientist investigating?
    - Why was this question important to investigate?
    - How did the scientist investigate their question?
    - What data did the scientist take in their investigation?
    - What patterns/relationships in the data did the scientist find?
    - What conclusions did the scientist draw?
    - What evidence from the data supports the scientist’s conclusions?
  - Possible Activities (PLEASE REMEMBER TO FOLLOW ALL SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS AND TO SUPERVISE YOUR STUDENT AS THEY CARRY OUT THESE ACTIVITIES)
    - Scientific American Bring Science Home
    - Citizen Science Projects
      - National Geographic
      - Zooniverse
Social Studies Secondary (Grades 6-12) Resources

Reading, listening/watching some news, and family discussions are important ways to keep student’s learning moving forward.

- Suggested sources for social studies articles:
  - Newsela (NPS subscription - use student email address)
  - National Geographic
  - BBC World News

- Suggestions for discussing articles with your child.
  - Choose a variety of articles; some for learning more about their current unit of study at school while other articles can be about topics of student interest.
  - Combine reading with watching local and national news to discuss topics important to the state, nation, and world. Keep an eye out, you may want to limit watching time so your child won’t be overwhelmed emotionally by too much news content.
  - Analyze sources and stories using C.A.R.S. Test (Credibility, Accuracy, Reasonableness, Support).
  - Students can use a map (paper or online) to find locations mentioned in the news.
  - Students can also use online sources, available through school library databases, to find out more about key people in the news. Go to your school’s library website for the links to a variety or resources.

- Students can also watch historical and geographic programs or documentaries available through cable, internet, or streaming services. Students can select programs based on their current unit of study.
  - Suggested social studies television programs and videos. There are too many to list but here are a few examples:
    - OETA/PBS, select History in the filter
    - History Channel’s episodes of Modern Marvels or How the States Got Their Shapes might be good choices for history or geography.
    - National Geographic channel has several good geography related programs.
    - Crash Course
    - Netflix has several good historical documentaries such as Five Came Back (World War II), 13th (13th Amendment), The Vietnam War series by Ken Burns, or Oklahoma City (Murrah Building bombing).
Virtual Tours and Online Exhibits of over 500 museums and galleries around the world, [Google Arts and Culture](https://artsandculture.google.com)

### World Languages Secondary (Grades 6-12) Resources

Students can maintain their engagement and proficiency in the target language outside of school.

- Listen to music in the target language.
- Watch a movie with target language subtitles or change the audio to the target language with English subtitles. Or do both audio and subtitles in the target language! What words does the student already know? How much can the student understand in context?
- If able, access [Duolingo](https://www.duolingo.com). Students can take a placement test in the target language and then do some continued learning.
- Keep a log of daily activities in the target language.
- Do some target language reading and vocabulary practice. If online access is an option, check out newspaper articles from other countries, practice vocabulary on [Quizlet](https://www.quizlet.com), find readings on [Lingua.com](https://www.lingua.com).
- Play [Scrabble](https://www.chess.com) or [Bananagrams](https://www.bananagrams.com) using target language words.
- Listen to a recording from [Audio Lingua](https://www.audio-lingua.org) and create a list of keywords as well as a summary.
ELEMENTARY Resources

The best tool for focusing on learning at home with your student is interacting with text, numbers, observations, and experiences together! Please see the specific content area Resources below that may assist in your educational interactions with your student.

Early Childhood Resources

Purposeful play is the foundation of learning in grades Pre-K and Kindergarten. Students should expect to engage in play experiences with caregivers while away from school. Asking questions while engaging with students such as, “What is your plan?”, “Why did that fall?”, “What shape will you use?”, etc.

- Continue to interact with your Raising a Reader bags and questions. Feel free to use those questions with other books at home!
- Practice writing and building letters and numbers in multiple ways: paint, legos, shaving cream, chalk, markers, etc.
- Please refer to the Summer Learning Activities document that has been shared for activities that address all areas of learning! Choose one a day from each domain to do with your student. You can view the link here: Kindergarten Activities and PreK Activities
- Read 20 minutes daily
- PLAY with your student! Ask them questions about your interactions. Examples are: Which tower is taller? Why did it fall? How can we sort these?
- Explore more ideas using the State Department Parent Guides: Parent Guides
- Scholastic Learn at Home Program: Learn at Home

English/Language Arts Elementary Resources

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| Reading       | ● Read for 20 minutes  
○ Students can read independently or you can share a book with them  
● Talk with your student about what they like to read and what they are reading | Questions to discuss with your student  
State Department Parent Guides: Parent Guides |
| Writing       | ● Practice writing | Writing topics organized by |
Math Elementary Resources

It’s important for students to continue talking about the concepts they are learning in mathematics to maintain their skills. Encourage your students to review their mathematics work for at least 30 minutes a day.

In addition, the news is full of mathematics references. It’s a great opportunity to explore the accurate use of mathematics and discuss the implications of data in the news.

Below are some options for accessing relevant information:

- [ConnectED for manipulatives and games](#) (link gives instructions for how to access)
- [Do Anytime Activities](#) for elementary math (by grade level)
- [Khan Academy](#) course- or grade-based content
- Other apps that your student has access to through their teacher
Science Elementary Resources

It is important to remember that science is all around us. To foster growth in your student’s understanding of the world around them continue to encourage your child to be curious. The National Science Teaching Association,* (NSTA, 2009) recommends that:

- Students can use the processes of science to observe, ask questions, experiment, tinker, and seek their own understandings of natural and human-made phenomena.
- Foster students’ creative and critical thinking, problem solving, and resourcefulness through authentic tasks such as cooking, doing household chores, gardening, repairing a bike or other household object, planning a trip, and other everyday activities.
- Actively engage with your student during mealtime discussions or group games requiring mental or physical skills, or by talking about books they are reading or television programs about science they have watched.
  - Suggested science television programs and video
    - NASA STEM
    - Crash Course Kids
    - National Geographic Kids
    - OETA science titles
      - Nature Cat
      - Wild Kratts
      - Splash and Bubbles
  - Suggested sources for science readings
    - Scholastic Learn at Home Program: Learn at Home
    - Newsela
    - Readworks
    - PebbleGo
  - Do Science in Your Home
    - The National Science Teaching Association * suggests:
      - Asking open-ended questions and taking time to encourage answers.
      - Observing: Invite young eyes and fingers to notice small details.
        - “What shapes do you see in that spider web?”
        - “Does the crust on this bread feel different from the crust on that one?”
      - Classifying: Put things in groups based on their characteristics.
        - “Let’s sort the socks by color.”
        - “Can you think of a way to divide your toys according to a pattern?”
      - Predicting: Put ideas about how the world works into words and test them.
        - “How long will an ice cube last sitting on the counter?”
        - “Will it last longer on another surface?”
      - Quantifying: Encourage children to quantify the world around them.
“Who is the shortest person in the family? By how much?”
“How many steps big is your room? The living room?”

- The Oklahoma Family Guides has additional suggestions on activities to do at home.


Social Studies Elementary Resources

- Create packets of activities to be done at home with families.
  - See the Oklahoma Family Guides for suggestions on activities to do at home.
  - See Oklahoma Library of Digital Resources for suggestions.

- Suggested Sources for social studies content:
  - Newsela
  - PebbleGo
  - Readworks
  - National Geographic Kids
  - Scholastic Learn at Home Program: Learn at Home

- Practice good citizenship at home (following Guidelines on good hygiene, being helpful to parents, completing chores at home, playing nicely with siblings).

- While reading, pay attention to setting (geography). Where does the story take place? What is the climate/weather like there? What is the culture of the people in the story?
  - If the location is a real place, use a map to find out where it is relative to Oklahoma.

- Play board games, or other types of games. Emphasize good play behavior such as taking turns, following rules, etc.
### Offline Activities to Try

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<th>Make or do a jigsaw puzzle</th>
<th>Build a blanket fort</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Put on a play or puppet show</td>
<td>Play with balloons</td>
<td>Write or recite a poem</td>
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<tr>
<td>Create an obstacle course</td>
<td>Plan and hold a picnic</td>
<td>Learn a magic trick</td>
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<td>Build the tallest tower</td>
<td>Make your own kite</td>
<td>Make a greeting card</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bake or cook something</td>
<td>Make a paper airplane</td>
<td>Take photos of 10 living things</td>
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<tr>
<td>Make up a dance or song</td>
<td>Make or play an instrument</td>
<td>Paint or draw a picture</td>
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<tr>
<td>Make a joke book</td>
<td>Try some origami</td>
<td>Play or make a board game</td>
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