



RUMSEY HALL SCHOOL

Distance Learning: Overview, Approach, and Guidelines for Parents

OUR MISSION

Rumsey Hall School is committed to a whole-child approach to education and believes that teaching academics and teaching an attitude of mind are of equal importance. The School emphasizes **effort** as a criterion for success and is dedicated to helping each child develop toward his or her maximum stature as an educated person, a successful member of a **family**, and a contributing member of a **community**.

Overview

Rumsey Hall is committed to providing an academic program for all students that provides the best balance of challenge and support for the individual. The teacher/student relationship and the classroom community are essential to making every student feel known and valued as members of the Rumsey Hall Family. However, there are instances when circumstances prevent students or faculty from participating on-site in the daily program. The following Distance Learning Plan was created to ensure students' continued learning, growth, and commitment to community when the campus is closed.

This document outlines our approach, guidelines for parents, technology requirements, and platforms our teachers will use to ensure continuity of learning in the event that campus is closed for a prolonged period of time. Specific information about scheduling and how the school day will be structured will follow next week.

Our Approach

We recognize that distance learning is not fully able to replicate the experience of being together on campus where teachers and students learn through personal interactions. However, when circumstances require campus closure, teachers are able to use various forms of technology to continue instruction and engage students in learning. Our plan will utilize forms of technology that will support students in adapting to a developmentally appropriate distance learning approach. Most of this technology will already be familiar to students and teachers.

Guidelines for Parents

Adapting to a Distance Learning Program will require families to make adjustments. In order for this program to be successful, the School needs your continued support and partnership. The administrative team, technology staff, your child's advisor, teachers, and coaches are available to provide support where needed. The guidelines below will support your child in achieving success through a distance learning program.

- **Establish a daily routine for your child and remain an active participant in their learning.** Maintain a consistent bedtime and wake up time to establish a sense of structure, normalcy, and predictability. Encourage regular physical activity as part of this daily routine to promote a healthy lifestyle and active engagement. Regularly check in with your child to ensure that they are appropriately engaged. Please reach out to your child's teacher or advisor if you notice your child struggling with focus.
- **Create a study space for your child. Learning requires a conducive study environment.** Please create a quiet study space in your home that you can monitor. A child's bedroom or the family television room may not be the most appropriate spaces. You want to find a place that does not isolate your child and that limits distractions.
- **Stay in contact with your child's teachers and advisor.** Depending on your child's age, maturity, and level of independence more or less communication may be appropriate. The teachers want to hear from you about your child's successes and struggles. Clear and constructive parent/teacher communication will support your child's continued learning.
- **Promote independence and make space for appropriate struggle.** Learning requires the ability to grapple with complex problems. Talk regularly with your child about the distance learning experience. Listen when your child talks about difficulty and then ask, "What do you think you could do about that?" or "Who do you think is best to help you with that problem?" Validate the reality of the struggle, but do not leap to immediately solve all problems for your child.
- **Provide opportunities for your child to engage socially with others.** It is very important for your child to continue developing social skills while away from campus. While playdates and sleepovers may not be possible, your child can interact with peers through the use of Facetime, Skype, phone conversations, and other age-appropriate social platforms.
- **Encourage daily physical activity and reach out to the Director of Health & Wellness if your child needs additional support.** Our athletic department and health teacher will develop suggested activities/workouts for your child to continue the development of their motor skills and athletic abilities, to use physical activity to manage stress, and to promote a healthy lifestyle. Our Director of Health and Wellness, Marisa Mastrianno, is available to provide extra support as necessary. Please contact her at mmastrianno@rumseyhall.org.

Technology and Resources

Each student will need access to a computer or tablet, an internet connection, and a printer (required in the Lower School, helpful but not required in the Upper School). When the distance learning program launches, teachers may post to their Google Classroom additional materials that students need to acquire. Please contact Rob Brenner or Brooke Giese if you do not have access to these materials and together we will find a solution.

Technology	Description
Email	The School will communicate all major announcements through email. Parents and teachers will continue to communicate through email. Students and/or parents may email teachers with individual questions.
Google/ G Suite	Teachers will post all assignments, links, videos, worksheets, etc. to the Google Classroom. Students may post assignments to the Classroom when required by the teacher. Students may use the G Suite to collaborate with the teacher and other students.
Zoom	The School will primarily use Zoom for the delivery of live and recorded audio and video.

We hope you find this *preliminary* information helpful as we prepare to launch our distance learning program. More detailed information including scheduling, technology use, student and parent technology support will follow next week. Our aim is to engage our students in meaningful ways so they can learn, grow, and keep connected with the Rumsey community. We look forward to working in continued partnership with you this spring.

We wish you well,
Brooke Giese and Rob Brenner

With permission, this plan is inspired by Sidwell Friends School in Washington, D.C.