



Special Education Frequently Asked Questions

March 26, 2020

How is Boys' Latin ensuring FAPE for our students?

During this time of Distance Learning, IEPs and 504 plans will continue to be implemented to the greatest extent possible. We understand there may be challenges. We will make our best efforts to ensure individual student progress during this school closure are being made.

Students at Boys' Latin will have real-time access to their counselors, regular education teachers, and special education teachers at designated office hours and by appointment. The use of distance learning and technology allows for the unique opportunity for general education teachers to partner with special education teachers to tailor and provide individualized instruction and specially designed instruction for the needs of each student for electronic assignments. Teachers are also able to provide direct one-on-one instruction.

There are various methods of instruction/activities which teachers are utilizing for student engagement during this time. These include but are not limited to:

- Video of read-alouds (Zoom app, Facetime, BombBomb etc.)
- Retelling with graphic organizer
- Independent reading
- Decoding and fluency practice
- Social-emotional activities and assignments as well as possible direct contact (phone, Facetime, Google video) with your student
- Videos (via email, SeeSaw, Google Classroom, etc.)
- Phone calls
- Learning websites (Khan Academy, MindPlay)
- Learning Apps
- Google slides

How are we handling the scheduling of IEP meetings, reevaluations, and other relevant meetings and timelines?

At this time, the Pennsylvania Department of Education has encouraged parents, educators, and administrators to collaborate creatively to continue to meet the needs of students with disabilities. We have been encouraged to work with parents to reach mutually agreeable extensions of time, as appropriate. An IEP Team may agree to conduct IEP meetings through alternate means, including videoconferencing or conference telephone calls. As such, IEP and 504 meetings will continue to be held virtually at mutually agreeable times. Boys' Latin is providing phone and Google Hangouts (video) IEP meetings to ensure that timelines are maintained. Progress monitoring is also being completed to the best of our abilities. The school will continue to update families as more direction from the state is made available.

Have families been notified about distance learning opportunities for their learners?

Dr. Noah Tennant has been in contact with all families to ensure that they know we are here to support their child in their academic and social-emotional learning during these unprecedented times. Our school social workers have also reached out to families. The families of students who receive specialized services will receive contact from you're their son's case managers and special education teachers. Parents have also received communication from the Office of Specialized Services with information and contacts of all instructional support teachers for grade-specific levels. We encourage families to maintain communication with all of their son's instructional support team. While Distance Learning is new to many, we believe over the next few weeks, it will become easier to navigate. Administrators and teachers will be available to assist families with any questions or concerns they may have as well.

What access to technology and/or devices for students are available, and what is the plan for families without devices?

Boys' Latin students have access to the Google Classroom online educational platform, just as if they were in school. Students in 10th, 11th, and 12th grade have already received student Chromebooks from the school. Additionally, the majority of Boys' Latin families have reported having access to technology tools at home. However, students without technology access can take advantage of loaner Chromebooks the school has made available. At this time all students have been provided access to a Chromebook. Ongoing access to Chromebooks or issues with technology will continue to be provided on an as-requested basis from the IT Team. Parents and students should email for support at blaccountinfo@boyslatin.org with the student's name, grade level, and need. However, if families are not able to pick-up or drop off technology due to constraints please contact school personnel (Principals, Grade Level Chairs, Case Managers, Director of Special Education) to coordinate and address family's needs.

How are students accessing related services?

At this time, related services (Speech, Counseling, and BCBA services) are being provided via teletherapy using Google Hangout, Zoom, FaceTime and over the phone, with the exception of Occupational Therapy. We appreciate your ongoing partnership and understanding as we know this new norm may come with challenges.

If you have additional questions regarding special education, please contact Bethany Younkens (High School) or Bria Smith (Middle School) at the contact information listed below.

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