

EAS Post-Covid Remediation Plan

October 2021

While we are overjoyed to return to in-person learning, the EAS staff recognizes the toll that COVID-19 and the remote learning model have taken on our students. There were many lost opportunities for students and the EAS staff is looking for ways we can help students to close gaps that were formed over the last two years.

Social Remediation – One of EAS’s founding principles is to build strong community between staff, students, and parents. We intentionally hold camp at the beginning of the year to foster these relationships and break the ice through shared experiences and memories. The teaching staff also planned an intentional set of activities in the start of the year that reminded students how to positively interact with others such as Good Teachers/Good Students, Family Matters, and Character Strong activities. Regarding students’ mental health, Kirstin Doughty’s recent addition to the staff as school counselor could not be met with better timing! Her services will provide our students with guided lessons on mental health from time to time and she will be available for individual appointments for any student who is struggling. The EAS staff collaborates weekly to discuss any observed changes or concerns in student behavior. We are committed to working with parents to improve student social and emotional well-being.

Academic Remediation – When schools initially closed due to COVID, EAS was very fortunate to have a significantly higher percentage of our students engaged in online learning as compared to the rest of the district. When we returned to classrooms in April 2021, our nearly 80% in-person enrollment also exceeded that of the district as a whole. Although our typical lessons had to be shortened and adapted for the remote setting, teachers felt that they still covered the required curriculum and had interactions with students on a regular basis that allowed them to assess their learnings. Teachers reported scores that indicated student learning was on par with previous years. Math classes were an exception to this, however. Since there were significantly less hours of math a week than normal, some classes did not finish their entire course. **All math teachers are now working together to close those gaps.** We are spending significantly more time in review and recognize that we may have to stray from normal content to teach content that was missed last year. Data from district-wide FastBridge math assessments will assist us in further developing remediation plans.

Organizational Remediation

- We are strictly enforcing planner-use and binder organization to help students re-establish habits for success. All teachers are frequently checking for this, especially during Advisory classes.
- We are also using Advisory classes to reteach students the basics such as accessing grades in Skyward, setting up printers, organizing files on OneDrive, etc.
- Time-management is traditionally a challenge for middle school students. We are aware that returning to school has put new pressure on students who have experienced very little homework in the last year and a half. Because of this, we really encourage students to utilize any worktime given during school hours to initiate work, ask questions, and get additional help.
- During this initial part of the year the EAS teachers are also temporarily reducing the amount of nightly homework to allow students to acclimate before we return to our normal standards. Right now, students should spend no more than 2 hours total per night on homework if they are using their in-class work time wisely. If you find that your student is exceeding this limit of homework, please contact your student’s advisory teacher for guidance.

With your help by creating a strong support structure at home, we are confident that our students will find success by the time they leave EAS. We encourage parents/guardians to regularly check Skyward and planners and to facilitate hangouts outside of school with other EAS students to rebuild social connections. Looking back, our small, closely-knit community here at EAS shielded us from some of the more devastating effects of remote learning. We could not have survived without all of your support, and we thank you for your understanding in these challenging times.