



Silver Lake Elementary School

Plan for Distance Learning Days in the Event of Inclement Weather

What are distance learning days?

A distance learning day is a day when students remain at home to learn remotely from their teachers due to inclement weather conditions that make it unsafe for students and school personnel to travel to the school. Distance learning days have replaced "snow days" in the district calendar. The most notable difference between the two types of days is that on snow days, school is cancelled entirely, necessitating a make-up school day sometime before the end of the school year. With a distance learning day, however, students continue learning at home, so there is no need to schedule a make-up day.

The decision to move to distance learning days in lieu of traditional snow days was made by the Alpine Board of Education in the summer of 2020 in response to an outpouring of parent and teacher support. In general, most families and educators felt that any challenges associated with a day of distance learning instruction at home were more manageable than the challenges associated with an unexpected snow make-up day.

Who decides if a distance learning day will take place?

The decision to move to a distance learning day is made by the Superintendent in consultation with representatives from Operations, Transportation, Facilities, Risk Management, and/or Public Relations departments.

The decision to call a distance learning day can be made for the entire district, a particular cluster within the district (a cluster consists of all the elementary and junior/middle schools that feed into a particular high school), or a particular school. Silver Lake is currently part of the Westlake High School Cluster.

How will I be notified if a distance learning day has been called for our school, cluster, or for the entire district?

If a distance learning day is called by district officials, everyone that is affected will be contacted through Skyward Messenger, the district's mass messaging system. Families are strongly encouraged to have an up-to-date email address and phone number in Skyward so that they can be contacted through this messaging service.

In addition to utilizing the Skyward Messenger service, official district communications will be sent through television and radio news channels and the following social media outlets:

- [District Facebook Page](https://www.facebook.com/Alpine.School.District) - <https://www.facebook.com/Alpine.School.District>
- [District Twitter](#) - @alpineschools
- [District Website](#) - alpineschools.org
- [District Transportation Twitter](#) - @ASDbus

How much work will be assigned to students on distance learning days?

The total amount of time that students will engage in online learning activities will be comparable to the suggested time frames for online learning at each grade level as recommended by the district. For details, please refer to the chart on the following page.

Recommended Duration of Online Learning Activities (per day)

Kindergarten	1 hour
Grades 1-3	2 hours
Grades 4-6	3 hours

What type of instruction will happen on a distance learning day?

The specific type of instruction students will receive on a distance learning day and the work students will complete will be determined by each individual teacher. While not an exhaustive list, the following tools and resources may be used to facilitate online learning:

- Resources shared through a teacher’s class website
- Resources shared through a teacher’s Google Classroom
- Online meetings with students via Google Meet or Zoom
- Use of district-provide online curriculum resources for the English language arts, math, and science
- Pre-recorded messages and videos from teachers
- Grade level plans and resources in which teachers provide resources and support to students across the grade level

How will I know what specific work my child should complete on a distance learning day?

Teachers will communicate their class-specific plans with their parents as soon as possible after it has been determined that a distance learning day will be taking place. Teachers will utilize communication methods that are already in place, such as email, class websites, social media, and use other other messaging and communication tools. Questions about specific assignments and classwork should be directed to each individual teacher. Teachers’ work email addresses can be found on our school website on the [Faculty and Staff webpage](#).

Are we able to check out a school Chromebook computer on a distance learning day?

By their nature, distance learning days are difficult to plan for and are often called “in the moment,” which makes it difficult to facilitate any formal check-out process of our school Chromebook computers for at-home use on a distance learning day. Furthermore, the weather conditions that would have prompted a distance learning day in the first place may make it difficult or hazardous to travel to the school. For these reasons, we will not be facilitating the checkout of school Chromebook computers on distance learning days. That being the case, we recognize it can be difficult for some families to juggle a limited number of electronic devices in the home. We invite you to do the best you can and make a concerted effort to have your children connect with their teachers’ prepared online learning activities for the day. As soon as the weather permits, we’ll be back in school again for face-to-face instruction!