Hello families and students!

We have a LOT of information to give you—so much that the Skyward email system is limiting us! We therefore are sending two emails today:

1) Overview of Essential New Learning/At Home Learning (this email)

2) Specifics for the Week of April 20-24, 2020

**Overview of Essential New Learning/At Home Learning**

First and foremost, we want to say that we hope you are all doing well. Even though we were not surprised to hear that we will not return to the school building this year, the governor’s announcement on the 6th made the situation real and we are definitely disappointed to be away from Skyline this way.

Since the 6th, we have been working out the logistics of our new At-Home Learning phase. We know that this will be a confusing time as students and their families navigate 7 classes, with teachers using different formats, etc. We are committed to keeping our expectations reasonable and to being creative as we work through issues together.

Right now, **several things are still unknown** and therefore our plans are incomplete—the most important of these is whether the entire district will go to a Credit/No Credit model or retain the normal Letter Grade model. Once we know more we will communicate clearly the relationship between our At-Home Learning work and your final scores in the class.

We want to communicate right now what we DO know: The focus of our learning; the communication platforms we will use; and the format of our weeks.

**The Focus of our Learning**

Our class will be focused on**: 1) completing our Africa/Things Fall Apart unit; 2) writing an integrated essay based on that unit; 3) covering South and East Asia content, in that order.** It’s hard to say what we will be able to finish by the end of the year, but that is our general plan. We would rather be responsive to the needs of our students than try to set things in stone right now.

**How We Will Communicate**

On Mondays we will send a weekly email out via **Skyward**, as we have been doing. It will have an overview of the week with helpful reminders. All assignments and content, however, will be found on Teams.

In order to keep everything in one place, we will continue using **Microsoft** **Teams**. Like we have been doing during the “EELR” period, all announcements, lecture content, and homework assignments will be posted in our combined LA/SS block Team. This will allow both SS and LA assignments to be submitted in one place, without needing to check websites. Our block has done a great job using Teams this year and we are so thankful that their skills are coming in handy now.

We may also post some materials to our **websites as a backup.** We really need as many students as possible to be finding material and submitting work on Teams to help us manage student work, but we also want there to be a Plan B. **If you are having difficulty with Teams, please reach out!**

**The Format of our Weeks**

We will deliver content for **the whole week all at once**, so that students can flex their time as needed. Students can proceed through the content in 25-minute daily chunks, or they can adjust as they see fit. To stay on track, students will need to submit their assignments by Sunday evening. However, if there are barriers to meeting that deadline, students are strongly encouraged to reach out to create an alternative plan with us.

We will also be establishing regular “**office hours**.” For the first week, our plan is to offer Office Hours in a visual video format on Teams where our faces are visible but students faces/voices are muted and students type questions into the chat. We will send out more specific directions soon.

Our first week’s schedule is included in the “Week of April 20-24" email. We hope we can keep our schedules steady moving forward, but we might need to adjust based on need. We are trying to cover every day and vary the times to connect with the most students possible, and we will be increasing office hours in essay-writing weeks. Any changes will be posted in Teams and in Monday emails.

**Technology Check-In**

We are hoping that students can do their best to **log onto Teams and access our Block team** as soon as possible so we have a sense of where we are at. There will be an Assignment under the Assignments tab and linked in the General feed called **“Technology Check-in.”** This task is required. We need to know as soon as possible which students need help logging in.

Here is a video created for ISD students that guides you to log into Teams, in case you are rusty: <https://screencast-o-matic.com/watch/cYfh31aVae>

Whew! That’s a lot of information but we know how stressful it can feel to be “in the dark” so we wanted to provide a little bit more for those who like to see the long view.

We know that this At-Home Learning phase is going to have challenges and we are ready to be flexible. We ask that you extend the same grace to us as we learn how best to support students in a format we have not trained for. Above all, we are excited to get to connect with our students again, albeit in this radically different way, and that we have the opportunity to teach some essential skills and content with the time we have left.

Thanks all!

Ms. Nguyen and Ms. Gilpin

Hello families and students!

We have a LOT of information to give you—so much that the Skyward email system is limiting us! We therefore are sending two emails today:

1) Overview of Essential New Learning/At Home Learning (sent previously)

2) Specifics for the Week of April 20-24, 2020 (this email)

We hope you all had a wonderful Spring Break and are refreshed and ready to come back to engage in our Essential New Learnings! We have created a list of tasks for the week and broken them out day by day to show one way of working through the material. You are certainly not limited to this schedule, but please know that the expectation is to spend 250 minutes on our block class and complete assignments by the due dates. As always, please reach out if you are having difficulties with technology so we can get you access to the class!

**9th Humanities Block Tasks: 4/20-4/24**

This week we start back up on LA/SS content that we left off before the school closures – Things Fall Apart and Africa. Please expect to spend 50 minutes a day (250 minutes a week) on Language Arts and Social Studies. This is not a rigid schedule: you can compress this work into a day or two; if one task doesn’t take a full 25 minutes, you can move on to the other task earlier and spend more time there; if you want to spend more than 50 minutes a day on our classes you are welcome to do that. Keep in mind that these tasks should not take you more than 25 minutes each. If you find you are consistently going over the time and are unable to complete what you need to in the given time, please reach out so we are aware and can offer strategies for working more efficiently.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Office Hours – Week of April 20-24** |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | **Monday** | **Tuesday** | **Wednesday** | **Thursday** | **Friday** |
| **Teacher** | Nguyen | Gilpin | -- | Both | Both |
| **Format** | Over email | Over email | -- | Video Meeting in Teams  | Video Meeting in Teams  |
| **Time** | 9-10am | 11-12pm | -- | 9-10 am | 1-2 pm |

**Monday, April 20th:**

* SS: Watch and take notes, “African Colonialism Lecture” video posted in the “Africa Unit Video Lectures” channel in Teams (*the lecture is ~50 minutes long, you can either watch the whole thing, if you have time or break it into two chunks for today and tomorrow*) **(25 min)**
* LA: Watch “Refresher of TFA” video + complete “Refresher Assignment” **(25 min)**
* Complete the New Essential Learning Survey on Teams (if you haven’t already)

**Tuesday, April 21st:**

* SS: Finish watching & taking notes – “African Colonialism Lecture” video posted in the “Africa Unit Video Lectures” channel in Teams **(25 min)**
* LA: Read TFA, chapter 14, complete “TFA Ch 14 Assignment” **(25 min)**

**Wednesday, April 22nd:**

* SS: Watch & follow along with the critical read of Rudyard Kipling’s poem, “White Man’s Burden” **(25 min)**
	+ This will be a live lesson **hosted on Teams at 10 AM.** It will also be recorded. Students can join to follow along live or can watch the video recording at another time that works best for them.
* LA: Read TFA, chapter 15, complete “TFA Ch 15 Assignment” **(25 min)**

**Thursday, April 23rd:**

* SS: Work on an OPCVL source analysis chart for the poem, “White Man’s Burden” **(25 min)**
* LA: Read TFA, chapter 16, complete “TFA Ch 16 Assignment” **(25 min)**
* Optional: Virtual office hours with Ms. Gilpin and Ms. Nguyen from 9-10 AM

**Friday, April 24th:**

* SS: Work on an OPCVL source analysis chart for the poem, “White Man’s Burden” **(25 min)**
* LA: Read TFA, chapter 17, complete “TFA Ch 17 Assignment” **(25 min)**
* Optional: Virtual office hours with Ms. Gilpin and Ms. Nguyen from 1-2 PM