

When the Halls are Silent: Assistant Principals Rise above Covid-19

Challenges Assistant Principals face and the innovative work they are doing to support principals, teachers, students, and communities to promote high levels of learning in this unprecedented era of Distance Learning.

Poll Time...

How have you increased your sense of control during the pandemic?

- A. Developing a consistent daily routine
- B. Taking breaks from work
- C. Spending time outdoors
- D. Other... Please share in the chat box.



Building Resilience in Staff

Let us never forget...



Heyyyyyyyy...

- If our cups aren't full, we can't fill up the cups of others.
- You are only one person.
- Take breaks from watching, reading, or listening to news stories, including social media.
- Check on others
 - Helping others improves your sense of control, belonging, and self-esteem. Look for safe ways to offer social support to others, especially if they are showing signs of stress, such as depression and anxiety.



ANT Therapy

A-Automatic N-Negative T-Thoughts

- Remember
 - Breathe! Be aware of the negative thought.
 - Identify the negative thought.
 - Write it down.
 - Evaluate the quality.
 - Negate it with a positive thought.
 - Take command over your thoughts.
- Move on!



Self-care and wellness

- Take time to practice self-care each day
 - Reading a book
 - Calling a friend
 - Exercising
 - Cooking a good meal
 - Deep breathing or meditation
 - Get outside
- Draw your attention to the good moments
 - What we give our attention to grows!
- Create a buddy system with your colleagues
 - Simple, fun ideas



Poll Time...

Think about what your own "calm-down" strategies would be — how do you self-regulate when you feel upset or stressed?

- A. The Calm app
- B. Headspace
- C. Smiling Mind
- D. Stop, Breathe & Think.



Discussion Question...

How are you engaging underrepresented populations?

(Please share in the chat box....)

Meaningful Engagement

- Some parents believe teachers have unrealistic expectations; and are fearful that their children will now know how much they do not know.
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8U6zU4MXmnA&feature=youtu.be>
 - Some parents have turned to prayer
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gpN9CGrK6lQ&feature=youtu.be>

How do parents, teachers, and students perceive distance learning in terms of the following?

- **Communication**
- **Connectivity**
- **Engagement**

POLL Question

What type of communication do you engage in?

1. I engage in one-way communication with parents, students, and teachers
2. I engage in two-way communication with parents, students, and teachers

Two-way Communication at Mary Harris Mother Jones Elementary

Parents	Teachers	Students
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish Platform that addresses language. Parent Engagement Assistant/Designee Community School Coordinator/Designee 4. Establish preferred virtual. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Webinar more than 1,000 1. Chat and Chew/Virtual 2. Virtual Town Halls with side-by-side translations 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> In a true PLC maintain <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Common planning time Monthly planning meeting Teachers dialogue/flush out info received/Vet responses received from PEA/CSC/Designee Test Coordinator's info platform/receives and resolves connectivity issues and communicate with district's tech dept. Counselors share info 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Use platforms teachers designed for open two-way communication - email - scheduled office hours - scheduled parent meetings - scheduled time to share Zoom room with counselors/each grade level

Focus Group Responses

In a **two-way communication system** what would parents, teachers and students wish to convey to each other?



When there's two-way Communication

Parents

- Distance learning: How am I supposed to do that when I am not a teacher - I have to work?
- Will my child get promoted?
- How can I get my child's belongings from the class?
- Lost my job and have no health coverage or food. Schoolwork is the last thing on my mind.
- I don't feel well. Where can I get free Covid testing and financial support for my kids?
- Will my 7 yr/old child let the teacher know she is home alone? I have to work.

Teachers

- Do parents and the district expect the same level of rigor, especially when I am just learning how to distance teach?
- I'm expected to sit in front of the computer for hours each day - enough of these office hours.
- How can I respond to parents in a timely manner while teaching and Zooming? This is too much!
- Grading- what if students do not do their work? How can I make them do it?
- I'm stressed with parents and the district's demands.

Students

- If I have a question about my work, can I call my teacher outside of office hours,?
- Why can't I **Zoom** my friends?
- My parents can't teach. I want to tell them but they'll get mad.
- I hate sharing my computer.
- What do I do when my Mom is too embarrassed to tell the teacher she can't read?
- How do I tell the teacher that my Mom doesn't know English and can't help me?
- Will Mom get upset if I let my teacher know we don't have food?

Angst derived from Connectivity Concerns

Parents

- I have four children, what am I supposed to do with 2 chromebooks/computers?
- They expect me to do what, when I don't have Internet?
- Will they leave me stuck with the bill for the hotspot & Internet they're offering?
- I'm not filling out forms to get free WiFi. I don't have my papers. It's a trap.
- What do I do if the computer breaks? Will the school charge me? I don't want a bill.

Teachers

- What am I supposed to say to parents who did not pick up a Chromebook on the day they were issued?
- Parents are calling about a broken equipment but the school is closed. What am I supposed to do?
- How do I respond to parents who ask, "What do you expect when I don't have no Internet?"
- If students do not participate, do they really expect a grade?

Students

- My parents say they don't have no way to get to school to pick up Chromebook. Where's the school bus?
- I use the iPhone to check my work in Google Classroom but my parents say I can't keep it for too long. They need to make calls.
- My Dad said he got the message for the principal's 'chat and chew' but he hopes she's gonna use the phone cause he's tired a Zoom.
- My Mom says I can't be on the computer all day. She says I need a break, so I can't finish my work..

DL's Impact on Engagement

Parents

- I do my job and teach my kids, now the teacher wants to talk with me? That's too much!
- The teacher can't engage with my child one-on-one unless a parent is there too? Legal issues? What?
- I like that the teacher discussed my child's learning style with me. This never happened before distance learning.
- I am more involved in my child's learning but It's a lot.
- The teacher does not engage, he only sends work.

Teachers

- For years I have wanted this type of collaboration with parents; finally, we're a team.
- It's a good thing my school is a PLC - it made transition to distance teaching much easier.
- Our administrator checks in on us more than he used to in the building. He is more engaged.
- Now that we are separated, we are finding more ways to be engaged with each other. I feel closer to my team now.
- I find more ways to engage with my students than ever before.

Students

- I like when my teacher use zoom and talk to all of us.
- I feel closer to my friends now because we talk on the phone more now, and work out math problems together.
- I feel more engaged with my classmates because Mom leaves me on the phone with them more now.
- My teacher is using more technology now like virtual field trips - she never did this in class before - I miss my friends but I like it. I am more engaged.

Planning for the Future

Dream big when casting vision but remember to keep a grasp on implementation.

- Models for Learning
- Assuring Safety
- Curriculum & Technology Accessibility
- Social and Emotional Support



Models for Learning

100% at School	Blended Learning	100% at Home
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Traditional school ● Still need to account for families who keep their kids at home 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Combination of learning at school and learning at home ● Variety of different formats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Education occurs outside the school ● How is equitable access guaranteed? ● What tools can deliver equivalent learning?

Poll Question

- Which blended learning model appeals most to you?
 - Alternating days
 - Cohorts with teachers who travel room to room
 - Selective student return; others distance learn
 - Taking a single course at a time
 - Using Individual Learning Plans
 - Elementary students in school; secondary distance learn

Assuring Safety

Governmental Guidance	Protecting People	Health & Safety Priorities	Ongoing Monitoring
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CDC Guidelines ● State Guidelines ● MI Safe Start 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Keeping higher risk students and staff safe ● Screening people for symptoms upon arrival 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Promoting healthy hygiene ● Cleaning and disinfecting ● Social distancing ● Understanding health and safety procedures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Establishing a system for monitoring students and staff ● Plan for if a person becomes ill ● Communicate when illness occur ● Flexibility with increased absences.

Curriculum & Technology Accessibility


Instructional Programing	Technology	Special Education	Academic Integrity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Contracted or purchased Instructional Programs ● Schoolology ● Edgenuity ● Michigan Virtual University ● Zoom/Meet ● Google Classroom ● SeeSaw, Packets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Online or local framework for managing instruction ● Participation ● Supporting Learners AND Users ● Communication Tools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Delivering on legally required IEP obligations ● Amending IEPs to reflect distance learning ● Providing resources to honor IEP commitments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Promoting critical thinking skills ● Establishing opportunities to collaborate ● Access to resources that promote rigor

Discussion Questions

- What lessons has your school district learned about distance learning since schools closed?
- What are the most pressing issues that need to be decided or resolved before starting school (in whatever learning model) in the Fall?

(Please use the chat box to respond to these questions)

Social and Emotional Support

Supporting Students, Staff and Families	Check-in Routines	Outlets for Support
(Distance) Social Events	Class Activities	

Owen Intermediate School Calming Room web address: <https://bit.ly/OwenCalmingRoom2020>

Have Questions? Contact Us

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