



## Lower School Distance Learning FAQs

Dear Lower School Families,

Thank you to those of you who joined us on [Facebook Live](#) to hear about the Distance Learning plan for the Great Hearts Irving Lower School. If you were unable to join us, you can access a recording of the Town Hall [at this link](#). Information about the plan for Distance Learning at our campus and resources to support you in assisting your scholars from home is also available on the Great Hearts Irving website at [greateheartsirving.org/distancelearning](https://greateheartsirving.org/distancelearning). General information about Great Hearts' response to the pandemic as a network of schools and Frequently Asked Questions can be found at [greateheartamerica.org/safereturn](https://greateheartamerica.org/safereturn).

Implementing a Great Hearts Distance Learning option and beginning the school year 100% remotely is an unprecedented scenario and one that none of us ever could have imagined would be necessary. We recognize that you have lots of questions about our plans for Distance Learning and what it will mean for your child(ren)'s learning and achievement. In the pages below you will find answers to a number of frequently asked questions. If you do not find the clarification you are looking for, please don't hesitate to reach out to us at [info@greateheartsirving.org](mailto:info@greateheartsirving.org).

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marcy Finn".

Marcy Finn  
Headmaster, Lower School  
Great Hearts Irving

## General

**Q. Will there be packets?**

- A. No. As a network of schools, Great Hearts America has made the decision to offer Distance Learning 100% online using the platforms of Google Classroom and Zoom. Paper packets will not be provided.

**Q. How can I get in touch with my child(ren)'s teacher(s)?**

- A. The best way to reach our teachers is always via email. Feel free to reach out to them directly at any time, and they will get back to you within one school day. Teacher email address can be found [on our website](#).

**Q. What supplies will my child need for Distance Learning?**

- A. Your child can expect to need the same materials for Distance Learning that he/she would need if we were able to be on campus. Lists of supplies needed for each grade level can be found [on our website](#).

**Q. Once the campus reopens, can our family opt in to Distance Learning if we prefer?**

- A. Yes. By opting in for Distance Learning, your child's classroom and teacher may change. Once you make the decision to move to Distance Learning, your child must remain in his/her Distance Learning classroom until the end of the quarter.

**Q. What will my child's daily schedule be like?**

- A. Daily schedules for each grade level with recommendations on when students should complete their synchronous and asynchronous lessons are available at [greatheartssirving.org/distancelearning](http://greatheartssirving.org/distancelearning). Please note that the time it takes to complete lessons will not be identical from day to day or from student to student. With the exception of each classroom's daily synchronous Zoom session, in which all students will log on at the same time in order to be counted present for the school day, the timing of other lessons may be adjusted to fit the particular needs of your family.

**Q. Will there be flexibility in the times asynchronous video lessons need to be watched and assignments completed?**

- A. Yes. We recognize that every family is facing a unique set of circumstances. [Daily learning schedules](#) may be adjusted to meet the needs of your family. Students are asked, however, to log on to their classroom's synchronous Zoom session at the scheduled time each day to be counted present.

**Q. Our family is new to Great Hearts. What challenges will we face?**

- A. When transitioning to a new school environment, there is always a period of adjustment. Our teachers have experience working with students and parents to assist them in acclimating to our rich and rigorous curriculum and expectations as smoothly as possible.

### Distance Learning Content and Instruction

**Q. Will the pace and content for in-person and Distance Learning be identical?**

- A. No. It is simply not possible to offer the exact same content remotely that we can in person. Distance Learning instruction will be equivalent, but not identical.

**Q. How will student learning and progress be monitored?**

- A. Students participating in Distance Learning will take the same assessments as students learning on campus. Many tests will be administered by teachers during the classroom's synchronous Zoom sessions, but some may be able to be completed independently. We hope to use this as an opportunity to instill the virtue of integrity in our students by expecting them to abide by standards of academic honesty in completing assessments from home. We will also be conducting our usual series of robust benchmark assessments including both DIBELS and MAP testing.

**Q. How will students practice their penmanship or show their work on a Math problem on a computer?**

- A. It will be necessary for students to complete some work, including assignments involving penmanship and some Math problems, on paper. These assignments will then be scanned or photographed and uploaded to Google Classroom for teachers to review.

### Technology

**Q. What platforms will Great Hearts use for Distance Learning?**

- A. Distance Learning will be provided over Google Classroom and Zoom. We also invite families to join us in beginning and ending our school days together with morning pledges and afternoon read aloud with Mrs. Pantin over [Facebook Live](#). You do not need a Facebook account to participate.

**Q. Do we need to create our own Google account?**

A. No. Great Hearts will create accounts for your child(ren) and provide instructions as to how to access the account(s).

**Q. Will each of my children need his/her own device?**

A. Yes. Children within the same family will be asked to access both synchronous and asynchronous lessons simultaneously. If you do not have sufficient devices for your children, please reach out to our Director of Campus Operations at [Charlotte.Garthune@greatheartssirving.org](mailto:Charlotte.Garthune@greatheartssirving.org).

**Q. Can my child use an iPad for distance learning?**

A. Students may use any device with the capabilities necessary to access both synchronous and asynchronous distance learning content, including a camera for synchronous Zoom lessons, the ability to watch asynchronous videos, and complete assignments over Google Classroom. A device with a physical keyboard may make it easier for your student to complete assigned work (especially for older students), but we do not anticipate it being an absolute necessity.

**Q. How will my child turn in his/her work?**

A. Some assignments may be able to be completed electronically within Google Classroom. Others will need to be completed in your child's Math workbook, in one of his/her notebooks, or on a separate sheet of paper. These will need to be scanned or photographed and uploaded to Google Classroom for your child's teachers to review.

**Q. When will my child Zoom with his/her teachers?**

A. Teachers and students will have an opportunity over Zoom each day to interact, spend time reading our [Classics to Keep](#) or other beautiful stories, participate in guided practice for Math or Spalding, and get help with independent practice assignments. This will also be time for students to have social interaction with their peers and take assessments. Visit [greatheartssirving.org/distancelearning](https://greatheartssirving.org/distancelearning) for daily schedules by grade level including the time your child will be asked to log onto their classroom's daily Zoom session.