



Fox Chapel Area

SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Summary of April 2020 FCASD Online Learning Parent/Guardian Survey

PURPOSE: At the request of the Fox Chapel Area School District Board of School Directors, the district's administration surveyed families to gather information related to the strengths and challenges of the district's online learning plan and learning environments as a means to promote continuous improvement for district students and staff.

PARTICIPATION: In addition to hundreds of emails, phone calls, information from Help Desk tickets, and teacher and administrative interactions with families, a total of 798 responses representing almost 1,300 students were submitted through the online survey link.

RESULTS SUMMARY: The survey results were overwhelmingly positive. Most students are having success in navigating their coursework and completing assignments. Many of the articulated challenges were outside of the district's purview but will be discussed to determine possible strategies to mitigate them. In addition, many of the challenges that were articulated are addressed in the updated district plan that is currently being implemented.

QUESTION AND ANSWER TRENDS:

What is working well for your child with online learning?

- Many expressed gratitude toward the teachers and administration for the efficient development and implementation of the online learning plan.
- Satisfaction with the level of quality of the learning plan and online resources.
- Communication to families from teachers and the district regarding information and updates, instructional goals, and supports.
- The structure of the online learning environment.
- Impressed with timely responses from teachers and the Help Desk.
- The ability for students to work at their own pace (asynchronous learning).

What has been challenging for your child regarding online learning?

- It is difficult for working parents to provide instruction and balance their own responsibilities. Some expressed the need for more time to complete assignments.
- Keeping students focused and motivated, and challenges with organization and daily structure.
- When technology/websites are slow and stop working (Schoology).
- Determining what is an optional assignment and what is required.
- Too much work in some classes.
- Lack of information about how student work will be graded.
- Not having direct contact with teachers and the need for more direct instruction.
- Concerns about the amount of screen time.
- Lack of social interactions with peers.

CONCLUSION: Based on the survey results, in addition to the other data sources listed above, the Fox Chapel Area School District has made/will be making the following adjustments to the instructional plan:

- Implementation of Friday Foxes PAWS Days in order to allow students to catch up on their online work, connect with teachers, and participate in other activities that promote social and emotional learning. Teachers will provide a total of three office hours each on each PAWS Day. School counselors will provide social and emotional learning opportunities via videos, emails, and shared resources.
- Teachers will provide pre-recorded instructional videos containing lessons or other learning experiences for students to view throughout the day.
- Building administration, counselors, or teachers will make personal contacts to families expressing little or no success to try to eliminate barriers to student learning.
- Additional technology will be distributed to families with multiple children, upon request.
- Clarification will continue to be provided as to how assignments will be graded during the closure.
- The district will continue to provide food distribution. Information will be emailed to each family and can also be found on the district's website.