

# META Community Forum – Preparation for Possible School Closure – Remote Learning 3-16-20

3/15/20 Lindy Hockenberry Compiled Resources

I have compiled the resources for teachers (and some for parents) that I have been sharing the past couple weeks here:

Tips, Tools, FAQs, and Resources for Remote Learning/COVID-19 School Closures: [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1CT-9Dbh2HH\\_r\\_KeoPiC7\\_4vyjg9Avx25m7eFQ5FyhCQ/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1CT-9Dbh2HH_r_KeoPiC7_4vyjg9Avx25m7eFQ5FyhCQ/edit?usp=sharing)

3/14/20

One more great resource - a spreadsheet of the education companies offering free subscriptions due to school closures: <http://www.amazingeducationalresources.com/>

Note Zoom has lifted the 40 minute limit on free accounts.

Also, add Google Meet enterprise level: <https://cloud.google.com/blog/products/g-suite/helping-businesses-and-schools-stay-connected-in-response-to-coronavirus>

And add Charter Spectrum offering free internet access for 60 days to new customers with K-12 and higher ed students: <https://corporate.charter.com/newsroom/charter-to-offer-free-access-to-spectrum-broadband-and-wifi-for-60-days-for-new-K12-and-college-student-households-and-more>

3/13/20

Hapara is graciously allowing me to host some remote learning office hours each day next week. These are open to anyone and FREE! No worries if you don't use Hapara, we will be discussing anything and everything regarding teaching and learning from home - strategies, tools, and most likely a lot of Google.

More info, times, and the Zoom join link are found here: <https://hapara.com/go-remote/>

3/12/20 Everett Holm

Some of our prep-

Ordered 25 Verizon hot spots in addition to 10 Kajeet hot spots we already have. Recruiting families to have small groups of students gather for internet access where we will deliver a hot spot. Precautions of course for those families are healthy and monitor students being thought out.

[Zoom.us](https://zoom.us) - entered information to lift the 40 minute time limit on their free account. Once approved, everyone in your domain who signs up for the free account will have the 40 minute limit waived. (Our testing this is for some reason easier to manage than google

hangouts.) <https://zoom.us/docs/ent/school-verification.html>

Deploying the [zoom.us](https://zoom.us) app to all district iPads.

Some teachers coming in tomorrow to discuss deployment strategies (scheduled day off for school, dedicated staff who wants us to have success in the event of school closure).

Good news around 80% of our HS/MS teachers already use google classroom - so the challenge is getting our students internet.

Some 'packets' being developed - old paper ways - to hand out. Recognition of some non-tech needs.

Currently everything targeted at MS/HS students - tomorrow planning for the lower grades and more for the upper grades.

3/12/20

As an instructional technology consultant, I work with schools all across the country and world, although I am lucky to live in beautiful Montana. I am currently seeing the effects of schools that have been forced to close with no plan or preparation to continue learning remotely.

You should not panic.

You don't need to load up on TP. :)

However, your schools should be creating a plan for remote learning **yesterday**.

The difference between COVID-19 and the flu or other known illnesses is the rate of the spread of the virus. We have already seen in countries such as Italy that the virus spreads so quickly that the healthcare systems don't have capacity to properly care for those that require hospitalization/medical care. The reason for the push to isolate is to slow the spread of the virus so our healthcare system doesn't reach capacity. Check out this great graphic from the [New York Times article](#):

[img]<https://static01.nyt.com/images/2020/03/11/science/11SCI-VIRUS-CURVE1/11SCI-VIRUS-TRACKER1-jumbo.jpg?quality=90&auto=webp>[/img]

Therefore, I feel that school closures will come to Montana soon (especially after next week when people return from spring break plans they did not cancel).

Schools that I have seen so far have the most success (and least stress) with remote learning are those that did not wait until the school closed to make a plan. In fact, I just heard of a school that actually closed school for a day to do a 'test run' and then come back the next day to work out the kinks.

A few things I am stressing to schools: I am highly recommending that schools focus on asynchronous online learning with teacher office hours offered; synchronous online learning has too

many headaches for little or no benefit. Focus on a few tools that can accomplish many things. For me, flipgrid, google forms/microsoft forms and google slides/PowerPoint Online give me a lot of bang for my buck with online learning.

Please feel free to reach out to me with questions. I am here to support: [lindy@intechgratedpd.org](mailto:lindy@intechgratedpd.org)

3/12/20 Prep for Possible School Closure META Community Forum

Dear META Members,

The "Preparation for Possible School Closure Discussion" launched through the META E-List has been excellent. In order for all of us to keep track of the conversation and collect data in one place instead of in an email string, it would be beneficial for the discussion to continue using the platform I am using to send this response: the **META Community Forum**. To respond to the topic and continue the conversation, please DO NOT reply to this email, but click on the link "Click here to view this topic." The link will take you directly to the community forum discussion. To continue to receive emails when a response is posted, click "Yes" next to "Subscribe". You may also click on [Member Landing Page](#), login to your profile, and visit the Community Forum. Feel free to reach out to the SAM office with questions.

Kirk

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Kirk Miller  
SAM Executive Director