

Director of Pupil Personnel Services Update April 23, 2020

Dear Parents and Community Members,

As this point, related service providers have contacted families and routines for telepractice are established. Students, teachers and parents are becoming more adept at the various modes of delivery (i.e., audio, video, audio/visual and virtual instruction). As we continue to develop and move forward with the District's Distance Learning Program, the instructional/therapeutic process benefits students because they can hear and/or see the teacher/therapist modeling a skill for which students receive immediate feedback as soon as they emulate it. When remote learning is necessary, these are the advantages of telepractice.

Teacher websites continue to include practices for virtual instruction. They are "Virtual Hand Raise (in the Subject of an email)," Nearpod lessons, ThinkCentral (reteach materials), MyON access for digital books; iReady, and Khan Academy for modeling skills and strategies such as analyzing text passages. Also, teacher constructed materials continue to include tools such as graphic organizers for note-taking and independent reading, and response choice boards to support writing, decoding, encoding, visualizing, and sequencing.

In addition, for your information, the New York State Education Department has posted resources on a Digital Content Resources Page (<http://www.nysed.gov/edtech/digital-content-resources>). This is a list of websites that are options for virtual field trips and academic resources by topic for students and families. These sites include quality resources and learning activities available online. Some which may be ideal for students and families include:

- New York State Museum Facebook Live Field Trips

<https://www.facebook.com/nysmuseum>

The New York State Museum is taking viewers behind the scenes of exhibitions and collections by offering Facebook Live Field Trips. State Museum scientists, historians and educators highlight interesting finds and facts about New York State history, science and culture. Every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday students and families can join scientists, historians and educators behind the scenes of the Museum's exhibitions and collections. The Museum highlights interesting finds and facts about New York State history, science and culture. A few topics viewers can learn about are Ice Age exploration, Adirondack animals and the centennial of the 19th Amendment for women's suffrage. Virtual tours begin at 1:00 p.m. on the State Museum's Facebook page and are saved for viewing after the live stream.

- Brain Pop Jr.

<https://jr.brainpop.com/>

- Brain Pop

<https://findnyculture.org/>

BrainPop offers over 1,000 short animated movies for students in grades K-12, with quizzes and related materials, covering the subjects of science, social studies, English,

math, engineering and technology, health, and arts and music. Materials are also available in Spanish.

- FindNYCulture.org
<https://findnyculture.org/>
Findnyculture.org connects teachers, parents, and students to New York's cultural education community. It is a searchable directory of New York's 4600+ museums, libraries, historical societies, science centers, parks, zoos, university art galleries, planetariums, and more. The website has an events calendar for new online and regional programs.
- National Geographic Kids
<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/>
National Geographic offers storytelling from the scientists, explorers, photographers, and filmmakers throughout the world. This site also offers free educational games and videos.
- PBS Learning Media Resources for School Closings
<https://ny.pbslearningmedia.org/collection/emergency-closings-collection/>
PBS LearningMedia is a collection of resources organized by grade and subject area. This includes videos and activities that can support learning at home.

As always, be sure to check your child's teacher webpage(s) and the district website daily for updates and important messages. Please do not hesitate to take advantage of the "Virtual Hand Raise" when requesting assistance through email of your teacher or provider. In addition, if you have any questions regarding special education, related services, or telepractice I may be contacted at 516-434-2620. I will return your call. Thank you, and take care during this challenging time.

Sincerely,

Jacob Russum

Director of Pupil Personnel Services
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