



Miriam School Online Learning Summary

Even during this time of upheaval in the world of education, Miriam School is continuing to offer high-quality personalized online learning to its students. Though our campus is closed, learning continues as teachers, therapists, and staff all work together to maintain skills and connect with students virtually. A strong parent partnership has always been a cornerstone of the Miriam School program, and this common commitment is evident in the work that has been happening in our community over the last several weeks.

Weekly Expectations for Students

Teachers at each grade level and team have worked together to establish “must do” and “may do” activities for students throughout the week. With an emphasis on the core competencies of reading, writing, and math, teachers create and push out lessons both weekly and daily for students to complete. Daily attendance tasks are required so that classroom teachers can monitor student participation and engagement.

On Mondays, our youngest learners each receive a personalized activity board designed on SeeSaw specifically for their achievement level and unique learning style, along with some familiar daily tasks like a weather tracker, calendar, and Question of the Day. All work is due by the end of the week and this model allows families to take ownership of their child’s learning and gives flexibility so that work can be completed on a schedule that fits their family. Learners submit their work for teacher review through Seesaw, where they can also see the work their classmates have completed.



Older students are assigned weekly work through both Seesaw and Google Classroom where teachers post, track, and give feedback on lessons in different subjects. Teachers combine coursework from Miriam’s typical curriculum along with online programs and tutorials like Khan Academy and Common Lit, which allow for assessment and benchmarking for each classroom. Teaching assistants provide 1:1 or small group tutorial sessions for select students daily across multiple subjects. Select middle school students have been offered an extension course which includes SAT Prep, Physics, and more in addition to their regularly assigned work.

All classrooms complete Science and Social Studies learning on a weekly schedule using tools like Brain Pop, Scholastic Learning and virtual field trips. PE and Art are offered weekly along with optional dance lessons, Spanish lessons, and Doodle Lounge drawing time.

Occupational and Speech/Language Therapies



As a core component of Miriam School's program, therapists in our Occupational and Speech/Language Therapy departments continue to offer students individual attention and work aimed at their specific goals.

Occupational therapists offer weekly PE classes where students can join live with their friends to participate in strength and endurance activities. OT staff also push out daily movement videos, fine motor worksheets, and activities to help students with crossing midline. Therapists are also available to connect with parents to give individual ideas to help with sensory regulation during home learning.

Speech/Language therapists are using each classroom's platforms to share weekly activities for students. Our youngest learners choose from tasks to build phonemic awareness, reinforce rhyming, practice social skills, retell a story, identify syllables, or categorize items. Older children participate in Listening Lab to build auditory processing skills and also complete lessons through the Everyday Speech online program where they view and reflect on guided social skills videos. Select middle school students participate in daily reading and writing tutoring sessions with their speech therapist, who also holds office hours three afternoons a week to work 1:1 with interested families.

Delivery Methods and Assessment

The synchronous learning model where students all attend a virtual lesson at a specific time daily has not been ideal for Miriam school's unique learners. Maintaining joint attention across virtual platforms has proved a challenge. Instead of this one-size-fits-all lecture style approach, Miriam School's staff provides content in pre-recorded modeled lessons that incorporate both written instructions and visual images to guide students through tasks. Families can access these lessons on their own timeline and children work at their own pace. Every classroom teacher also offers daily office hours where students and families can check in to receive individualized help with specific content.

After much discussion with other independent and public schools, Miriam School made the decision to suspend grading for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year beginning at the start of the remote learning term. Progress reports for students in Kindergarten through 6th grade will contain a statement about the completion of the school year and middle school students will have Pass/Fail grades marked on their reports. We believe this approach prioritizes the mental and emotional health of our families during this pandemic, while also maintaining a commitment to student engagement.

Faculty Collaboration

As during the typical school year, Miriam School's skilled faculty and staff continue to collaborate, plan, and modify our instruction to match student needs. The full faculty hold staff meetings weekly with individual teams gathering for an additional meeting weekly. Administrators are available for individual coaching with staff throughout the week and have taken a broad approach to programming, utilizing strengths of all faculty to provide content.

