

AVOCADO TOWN HALL MEETING

Distance Learning

Want to be parents and not necessarily teachers

Question 1

How has distance learning impacted your learning (Good, bad and ugly)?

- Parent 1
 - Parent 1 was happy is happy with the communication with kids' teachers who are Mrs. DeVos and Mrs. Ortega
 - She knows that we are lucky to have tech and online programs
 - She felt that Distant Learning is not personalized to her children
 - One plan fits all but this does not fit her family
- Parent 2
 - Not normal for a student to be in front of the screen for too many hours
 - Parent feels that it is not normal to have students in front of a screen so long
 - Typically limits to one hour of screen time a day.
 - Putting the writing off
 - She feels that kids need social interaction
- Parent 3
 - District learning thing difficult in our house
 - First grader having a rough time staying focused
 - He has learned loopholes with online programs
 - I do like the Google presentations on the playlists
 - Time management is the biggest thing at this point
 - Frustration for kids is high
- Parent 4
 - Some of the online stuff has not been covered yet a few times
 - They are not writing
 - No spelling
 - No handwriting
 - Adding additional hours
 - Doing writing on the computer is not working
 - Some assignment (concepts) have not been taught yet
 - We have also seen that on STMath my child is stuck and when we went into office hours with the teacher, she could not solve the math problem also and just told us on YouTube how to get past a part.

- Parent 5
 - Addressing the previous parent's concern
 - Teachers are supplementing
 - Sharing writing via US Mail
 - Sending items home is allowing students to
 - Parent 5 agreed with 4th Parent (John) that regarding writing and that there is a need for more manipulatives
 - Less screen time
- Parent 7
 - School is geared to learning
 - Home is not geared toward education
 - Described school as visually full of learning opportunities and shared that homes are not set up in that way
 - PDF format is incredibly challenging
 - His child can't focus
 - His child can't navigate through the site
- Parents 8 and 9
 - Children thrive with consistency
 - Children will reach a frustration level when parents are supporting students at home
 - They appreciate the consistency in playlists
 - Difficulty when children know some assignments take longer - some take slower
 - It is hard for them to manage frustration levels
 - Connection would be more helpful
- Grand-parent 10
 - She feels that special education services is not addressed on-line
 - He hasn't had any speech contact
 - SLP has reached out to family and has confirmed that student has access to the established Google Classroom
 - How will District support services
 - Referred to Keith
 - SLP has reached out to family and has confirmed that student has access to the established Google Classroom

- Parent 6
 - Not a fan of technology
 - I am into old school
 - Pencil, paper, and notebooks
 - Would like paper
 - Son can't write a single word
 - Happy that other parents are thinking like her and that she is not alone
 - Needs speech help
 - SLP has reached out to family and has confirmed that student has access to the established Google Classroom
 - Parent confirmed that the student does not prefer to participate in specialized support because it affects his free time on technology
 - Family limits screen time.
 - Video meetings are included in the amount of screen time allowed.
- Parent 11
 - Commend the faculty and admin
 - Challenge both being full-time employees
 - Additional help/support by engaging in support by other students
 - Suggests additional physical exercise options
 - Zoomba
- Parent 12
 - Kids are lonely
 - Teachers are amazing
 - If they are going to go back to school with no contact
 - The physical activity is lacking

Notes from chat:

From Parent 6 to Everyone: (2:12 PM)

- Agree with her exactly what I was thinking about being in front of the screen too much

From Parent 5 to Everyone: (2:13 PM)

- i agree!!!!

From Parent 6 to Everyone: (2:14 PM)

- wow! Agree 100% Im more old school, writing, reading (books)

From Parent 5 to Everyone: (2:18 PM)

- the writing! I also agree!

From Parent 6 to Everyone: (2:20 PM)

- the audio is not really good

From Parent 5 to Everyone: (2:20 PM)

- true. hard to hear him

From Parent 13 to Everyone: (2:22 PM)

- pros - st math and smarty ants move per child pace, teachers being able to now modify playlists and personalize them a bit. I receive weekly writing documents (not a pro for families with no printer)

From Parent 3 to Everyone: (2:22 PM)

- Agree 100

From Parent 13 to Everyone: (2:24 PM)

- Cons - lack of social/ emotion connections, hands on work, no learning through manipulatives, no stem activities, or maker space. My child isn't always challenged through blanket assignments for everyone on iReady

From Parent 5 to Everyone: (2:25 PM)

- 👍 Yes, I have the same concerns, Sheila. Thanks.

From Parent 14 to Everyone: (2:25 PM)

- 👍👍

From Parent 4 to Everyone: (2:26 PM)

- We have also seen that on STMath my child is stuck and when we went onto office hours with the teacher, she could not solve the math problem also and just told us to youtube how to get past a part.

Parent 3 to Everyone: (2:28 PM)

- I am worried about the mental balance that will be developing with the lack of socializing

Parent 5 to Everyone: (2:28 PM)

- 🙄 Same, Amber. My kid is lonely.

From Parent 6 to Everyone: (2:32 PM)

- we are trying to reduce screen time

Question 2

Child care: How important is child care for your family and students?

- Parent 12
 - I don't want to send my child back to school for teachers to babysit
 - Clarifying that we don't know what next year looks like
 - District PE video is lacking
 - *Tamara Otero clarified that we were on the topic of childcare*
 - Parent stopped conversation
- Parent 15
 - How is that going to affect me as an employee?
 - With children possibly going back part-time, she would like to know how the District is going to support her, as an employee?
 - Is the District prepared to support me as I work to fulfill my duties as a SECA with students at two school locations?
 - Concerned whether childcare will be provided
 - Wanted to know if there would be flexibility with work schedules of employees with children who are students in the district
- Parent 16
 - Agreed with Parent 15.
 - She is an employee of the district as well.
 - This is her same concerns

Notes from Chat:

From Parent 17 to Everyone: (2:32 PM)

- I teach at an online alternative ed school, we joke a little about how the first few months as an employee, student and parent, is similar to drinking from a fire hose.

From Parent 13 to Everyone: (2:33 PM)

- Im there with you Cynthia. I have that need as well

From Parent 3 to Everyone: (2:33 PM)

- Due to child care it depends on what opens up for my husbands work and what the district does with my position

From Parent 18 to Everyone: (2:35 PM)

- Childcare would be a concern as well as a teacher and parent. =)

From Parent 19 to Everyone: (2:35 PM)

- I agree, [Parent 18] . . . As a teacher and the parent of an elementary child and a middle schooler, childcare is a concern for me.

Question 3

If you could build and dream it, what would school look like next year?

- Breakout Room 1 - Parent 14 Reports
 - Worried about connections with classmates and teachers
 - Ideally normal
 - Concerned about sick children being dropped off
 - Parents may administer fever reducer and send to school
 - Rotations/time frames
 - Working parents
 - Morning drop off
 - Before school lines
 - Parents on campus
 - What is the district considering and how are they planning around these concerns to limit contact?
 - PPE
 - Would students and staff be expected to wear masks
 - What happens when a student arrives with symptoms
 - Concerned about sick kids being dropped off
 - Concern with PPE
 - Masks for children are voluntary

- Breakout Room 2 - Parent 5 Reports
 - Reutilizing spaces for supporting social distancing
 - Making MPR/Library/Lunch areas learning spaces

- Breakout Room 3 - Parent 13 Reports
 - Who would want to have their kid go back to school in some form.
 - Majority wanted to go back in some form
 - Ensuring that all rooms are cleaned
 - Repurposing space
 - If students are not allowed to go back then CHILD CARE becomes the next most important point
 - All said “Yes” to returning to school in some capacity
 - Use space creativity
 - Childcare needs to be available (this is more of an issue for elementary)

- Breakout Room 4 - Parent 4 Reports
 - Okay with half days/part days
 - More interactions with teacher physically
 - More Zoom interactions with teachers
 - Homeschool option for parents should more advertised
 - Fear of returning to school shared

- Need more Zoom interaction with teachers for parents and students
- Breakout Room 5 - Teacher 1 Reports
 - Want students to interact, but not sure how to limit contact
 - It will be hard to keep kids apart
 - What will be done to ensure student health
 - Facemasks
 - hand washing
 - Both parents had to be quarantined due to exposure. They are afraid to send back to school based on their experience
 - Against vaccine
 - Don't like distance from friends
 - So many health unknowns
- Breakout Room 6 - Teacher 2 Reports
 - Flexibility amongst parents
 - They want things to go back to as close to normal as possible
 - Personal contact is important
 - Too much screen time
 - No masks - deal breaker if required
 - Part-time is better than no time

Notes from Chat:

From Parent 20 to Everyone: (2:54 PM)

- yay!

From SECA 1 to Everyone: (2:55 PM)

- A survey to all parents..


From Parent 5 to Everyone: (2:58 PM)

- We also wanted more/better communication between the parents and the teachers, so we would know how to use the technology, programs, expectations, etc.

From Parent 6 to Everyone: (3:00 PM)

- Fear is worst enemy

From Parent 5 to Everyone: (3:00 PM)

- Truly. 

From Parent 3 to Everyone: (3:02 PM)

- thank you

From Parent 20 to Everyone: (3:02 PM)

- thank you! I am so happy about the masks!

From Parent 11 to Everyone: (3:02 PM)

- transfer info?

From Parents 8 and 9 to Everyone: (3:02 PM)

- Is there any where else we can communicate our concerns after today?

From Parent 11 to Everyone: (3:02 PM)

- any updates?

From Parent 5 to Everyone: (3:02 PM)

- Thank you for hosting!

From Parent 21 to Everyone: (3:02 PM)

- thank you!

From Parent 14 to Everyone: (3:03 PM)

- if anyone has any other concerns to share please email us at avocadoschoolpta@hotmail.com so we can report back to district meetings

From Parent 5 to Everyone: (2:37 PM)

- If school looks anything like this, I am not sending my child. That sounds awful! ☹

Additional Notes Taken:

Parents gave pros/ and cons regarding distance learning

Pro	Con
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technology is available and helpful • Programs like Smarty Ants, ST Math helping younger students • Teachers are able to modify playlists for students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not personalized to each child • Too much screen time • Prefer physical work • Hard to keep students focused using computer work • Some finding time management to be challenging • Some online assignments have curriculum that was not yet taught • Too many apps make it frustrating

Feedback

- Writing is needed
- Manipulative or STEM kits would be helpful
- Need challenges & engagement in the curriculum
- Social and emotional support is needed
- A group for students to be able to contact each other would be helpful
- Most parents want school to go back to normal but know there must be some adaptations due to covid-19
- PE videos could be more fun and engaging, the videos with the instructor are “boring” need something more fun and upbeat
- Parents want to make sure that if there is daycare the teachers are not having to babysit
- Day care would be helpful for people who have students at different schools
- Need connection with students and teachers more than just a zoom with the class

When school resumes these were things brought up:

- Most parents want kids to return to school
- Some kids are afraid to go back to school
- Need flexibility and normalcy
- Worry about sick children being dropped off if their parents may have given them a fever reducer and leaving them at school
- Concerned about student behaviors. What will be done if students are unwilling to adhere to social distancing protocols?
- Concern regarding PPE brought up (i.e., masks)
- How will temperature checks work?
- How will morning drop off work?
 - Will parents be able to stay with their student in line before school, or will this be a drop off only process?
- How would schedule rotations work for parents who are working certain days
- Where will all of the students fit at our school if day care and school are happening at the same time?
- Areas could be repurposed for students to allow for more space in the classrooms for social distancing (MPR)
- Will HVAC systems possibly allow spread of germs through the air?
- What can be done to help students with special needs at this time
- Parent requested additional info about homeschooling as a possibility
- Concern of how child care would work if there are budget cuts to education. It would require additional staffing, but funding from the State is projected to be cut or reduced.