



ACADEMIES OF MATH & SCIENCE

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Successful Learning at Home During the Current School Closure



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Successful Learning at Home

Students, teachers, and families are at the heart of everything Academy of Math and Science schools do, and we are committed to helping everyone have positive learning experiences, whether online or in school.

During the school closure in the month of March, it's important that learning continues for our students, even if it can't happen in person. This letter provides our AMS students and their families with information that can help them set up successful learning experiences at home. Continuing education during school closure is a requirement from the state of Arizona for both parents and schools in order to prevent extension of the school year as well as to ensure that students do not fall behind in their learning and progression for the following grade level.

The goal of home learning for this time is for students to review lessons and assignments that have already been covered in the classroom. By providing academic practice at home, you are providing a sense of normalcy during this uncertain time. By following the suggested steps for success outline in this letter, you are also providing a structured day and maintaining all the academic growth your child has worked so hard to achieve this year.

Create a Plan for Success

Step 1: Stay in Communication with Your School

The best way for schools and parents to partner in the education of their child during this school closure is to stay in communication. Communication with each AMS school is facilitated through Class Dojo, email, or by phone.

Class Dojo

Early in the school year your child's homeroom teacher sent out directions for logging into his or her classroom dojo account. Should you need this information, please contact your school and they can help you log in to Class Dojo for your child.

Class Dojo messages sent to teachers are answered within one business day. You should expect a response to come within the typical school hours of 8am to 4pm either the same or next school day. Please give teachers at least one day to adjust to the new schedule and expect to hear from them regarding your questions by Tuesday.

Email

Teacher email addresses can also be utilized for communication. You can find your teacher's emails by:

1. Go to amschools.org
2. Click on the "Find Your School" Menu title located at the top of the page and drop down menu of schools appears
3. Click on your school and you will be redirected to the school website
4. On the school website, look on the left-hand side of the menu and click on "Teacher Webpages"
5. Find your child's teacher and click on gray envelope under their picture to be taken to the email page
6. Be sure to include your name, your preferred return email address, and the name of your student in the email so they can better assist you



Phone

Although we encourage you to use ClassDojo or email your child's teacher first (to ensure a record of the communication), we understand that you may need to contact your student's school. You can find their number by:

1. Go to amschools.org
2. Click on the "Find Your School" Menu title located at the top of the page and drop-down menu of schools appears
3. Click on your school and you will be redirected to the school website
4. Scroll down the webpage and the school's address and phone number will be located under the school map.

Step 2: Familiarize Yourself with Your School's Expectations for Schoolwork

Learning during this temporary school closure will continue via distance or online learning. You can feel confident that we are committed to ensuring continuous and meaningful learning for all students through the use of both online resources for students who have online access and print resources for students who do not have online access.

Grading:

During the first two weeks of closure through April 3rd, 2020, AMS will be grading based on the attempt of the student to finish all of the work. If at any time you should feel frustrated and can't help your child with their assigned lesson and assignment, you may consider choosing another math, reading, or science activity from <https://amscharters.org/home-learning/> to supplement it or take a break before resuming. We will be flexible with parents and students during this time. You can also contact your child's teacher for further support.

Expectations for Kinder to 2nd Grade

Students will be expected to complete printed packets that will be distributed by the schools at the start of each week during breakfast/lunch pickup.

Subject	Frequency of Lesson and Assignment
Reading/Writing/Spelling	1 per day
Math	1 per day

Expectations for 3rd Grade to 8th Grade:

Students with online access will be expected to utilize **Study Island** to complete schoolwork during this time. Students who do not have online access will be given the opportunity to pick up printed materials of the same concepts as presented online. Your school and your student's teacher will contact you with the dates of distribution for the printed materials should you need any.

Subject	Frequency of Lesson and Assignment
Reading/Writing/Spelling	1 per day
Math	1 per day
Science	1 per day

Expectations for 6th Grade to 8th Grade

Students with online access will be expected to utilize **Study Island** to complete schoolwork during this time. Students who do not have online access will be given the opportunity to pick up printed materials of the same concepts as presented online. Your school and your student's teacher will contact you with the dates of distribution for the printed materials should you need any.



Subject	Frequency of Lesson and Assignment
ELA	1 per day
Math	1 per day
Science	1 per day

Your child's individual school and teachers will be reaching out to you via **email, phone, or Class Dojo** to communicate more specific expectations that are individualized for your student's classroom should the school closure continue.

How to Access Study Island Online

Study Island is completely web-based to allow access to the program from any computer with an Internet connection and a standard Web browser. Session results are automatically recorded, including results from sessions completed outside of school.

- Every student has his/her own username and password.
- The program is divided into sections based on subject.
- Each subject is made up of topics, each of which corresponds to specific state standards.
- Each topic contains lessons, practice questions, and explanations.
- Topics are accompanied by a lesson, which includes information about the material covered by the questions in the topic.

How to Log in to Study Island

Go to www.studyisland.com, click "Login" on the top right-hand side, and enter your username and password.

How to Use Study Island

- After signing in on the home page, click on My Class to start working in Study Island.
- The student will need to
 - Complete the lesson topic
 - Complete the assigned topic questions correctly with a grade of 70% or higher
- You can also use the navigation bar on the left-hand side of the screen to access class assignments, reports, high scores, and writing assignments, as well as other sections of the program.
- To pass a topic, a student must satisfy the topic's passing goal, which is based on a minimum number of questions answered and a minimum percentage correct.
- A Blue Ribbon is displayed next to all passed topics.

Step 3: Set a Schedule

Prepare a schedule of what needs to be completed each day/week (older students can assist or create the schedule themselves). Remember that part of effective scheduling is building breaks into the day and not trying to put too much learning into one block. A general rule of thumb is 30 to 50 minutes of learning and then a break. Breaks may need to be more frequent for younger students.

Sample schedules can be found online or can be created individually. We've put together some sample schedules to ensure that students continue their studies and are engaged in all subjects offered at AMS, below. If school closure is extended through the end of the year, AMS will likely extend its learning program to utilize Google Classroom and in addition will work with parents to setup schedules resembling their learning at school.



Kinder to 2nd Grade

Time	Activity
8:00am – 9:00am	Eat breakfast and get ready for the day as though you are going to school. Change from pajamas to school clothes, eat breakfast, and prepare your brain for learning. Consider physical activity to increase alertness.
9:00am - 9:45am	Complete one math worksheet.
9:45am – 10:15am	Play. Ideally outside if weather permits.
10:15am - 11:00 am	Complete a reading worksheet.
11:00am - 11:30am	Break. Ideally run around and play outside or access fun resources from https://amscharters.org/home-learning/ for music, art, foreign languages, social studies, or physical education. Have a snack.
11:20am – 12:00pm	Practice writing at home. Students can practice journaling, story writing and illustrating, letter writing, and more. Resources and ideas can be found at https://amscharters.org/home-learning/
12:00pm – 1:00pm	Lunch and play
1:00pm- 1:30pm	Complete one more online learning activity from https://amscharters.org/home-learning/ in computer science or engineering. If no online access, practice your math facts, check through your completed worksheets, or read a book!
1:30pm to 2:00pm	Read with an older sibling or adult.
2:00pm to bedtime	Enjoy time with your family!

Grades 3 - 5

Time	Activity
8:00am – 9:00am	Eat breakfast and get ready for the day as though you are going to school. Change from pajamas to school clothes, eat breakfast and prepare your brain for learning. Consider physical activity to increase alertness.



9:00am - 9:45am	Complete 1 Study Island Math topic or Study Island Math Worksheet section from the school provided printed materials.
9:45am – 10:15am	Play. Ideally play outside. Get that heart pumping.
10:15am - 11:00 am	Complete 1 Study Island Reading topic or Study Island Reading Worksheet section from the school provided printed materials.
11:00am - 11:30am	Break. Ideally run around and play outside or access fun resources from https://amscharters.org/home-learning/ for music, art, foreign languages, social studies, or physical education. Have a snack.
11:20am – 12:00pm	Silent reading, read with an adult sibling or adult, or read to a younger sibling
12:00pm – 1:00pm	Lunch!
1:00pm-1:30pm	Complete 1 Study Island Science topic online or Study Island Science Worksheet section from the school provided printed materials.
1:30pm to 2:00pm	Practice writing at home. Students can practice journaling, story writing and illustrating, letter writing, and more. Resources and ideas can be found at https://amscharters.org/home-learning/
2:00pm to 2:45pm	Complete one more online learning activity from https://amscharters.org/home-learning/ in computer science or engineering. If no online access, practice your math facts, check through your completed worksheets, or read a book!
2:45pm to bedtime	Enjoy time with your family. Remember, it’s also a great idea to help your family! Doing the dishes, taking out trash, picking up your room, or other chores are all helpful and contribute to the wellness of your family.

Grades 6-8

Time	Activity
8:00am – 9:00am	Eat breakfast and get ready for the day as though you are going to school. Change from pajamas to school clothes, eat breakfast and prepare your brain for learning. Consider physical activity to increase alertness.
9:00am - 9:45am	Complete 1 Study Island Math topic or Study Island Math Worksheet section from the school provided printed materials.
9:45am – 10:15am	Go for walk/run or play outside if weather permits.
10:15am - 11:00 am	Complete 1 Study Island Reading topic or Study Island Reading Worksheet section from the school provided printed materials.
11:00am - 11:30am	Break. Ideally run around and play outside or access fun resources from https://amscharters.org/home-learning/ for music, art, foreign languages, social studies, or physical education. Have a snack.



11:20am – 12:00pm	Silent reading or read to a younger sibling.
12:00pm – 1:00pm	Lunch!
1:00pm-1:30pm	Complete 1 Study Island Science topic online or Study Island Science Worksheet section from the school provided printed materials.
1:30pm to 2:00pm	Practice writing at home. Students can practice journaling, story writing and illustrating, letter writing, and more. Resources and ideas can be found at https://amscharters.org/home-learning/
2:00pm to 2:45pm	Complete one more online learning activity from https://amscharters.org/home-learning/ in computer science or engineering. If no online access, practice your math facts, check through your completed worksheets, or read a book!
2:45pm to bedtime	Enjoy time with your family. Remember, it's also a great idea to help your family! Doing the dishes, taking out trash, picking up your room, or other chores are all helpful and contribute to the wellness of your family.

Step 4: Organizing a Learning Space

Students are more invested in learning when they have a dedicated school space, even if it's just a corner of a room. Aim for a place that is free from distractions and noise. If you have more than one child, consider different spaces for each child to help with focus. The learning space should be:

- Quiet and away from distractions like television or siblings engaged in other activities.
- Free of visible clutter to increase focus.
- Monitored. While learning online is done with a healthy amount of independence, you should remain frequently visible to keep students on task and monitor internet use.
- Comfortable., Students might want to move from desk to a cozy chair or the floor. As long as your child is progressing through the work, seating changes may help refocus attention.
- Stocked with the materials students need to keep working.

Step 5: Overcoming Home Learning Frustrations

Learning from home is going to be new for your students and it may become challenging for them. Your students might find themselves feeling frustrated without having the immediate support from the teacher they are used to having in their classrooms. However, with the right support, you can help your students become self-directed learners:

1. Encourage your student to persist through difficult work. Praise their accomplishments.
2. Reach out to your child's teacher for help.
3. If students struggle with an assignment use statements such as:
 - a. Tell me what you've tried so far.
 - b. What else can you try?
 - c. What have you learned so far and how can you apply it here?
 - d. How do you know this is the right answer?
4. Remember to set goals for learning. If your child is struggling with completing tasks or assignments, try helping them by saying, "let's set some goals together to help you complete this work." Goals should be challenging but attainable with clear steps to achieve the goal. Consider ways in which you can help monitor progress towards goals—anything from a simple checklist to a chart with star stickers.
5. Give students ownership. Learners who learn to take charge of their own learning are often more successful. When making your schedule, let your student make decisions about their activities and day. For example, let



them decide if they would rather do math or reading first. Ask them how much they think they should do each day to meet the teacher's expectations.

6. Read. If technology is not being your friend and you find yourself offline without access to lessons, read. Consider reading the same book as your child and discussing the story or material together or have your child read aloud to you to reinforce comprehension.
7. Take a break. Sometimes leaving the activity and returning it will help you and your student approach the task from a new angle.
8. Consider online resources to help you work through the worksheet or topic with a new activity within the same subject from <https://amscharters.org/home-learning/>. If your child gets stuck and has done everything they can and there is more time allotted for math/reading/writing/science, consider doing another online lesson from the resources to keep them learning. The goal of work during this time is for students to practice what they have already learned in the classroom.
9. Contact your child's teacher for help via Class Dojo or email

AMS Home Learning Resources

AMS has a Home Learning website with resources that contain website activities students can participate in while learning from home. These resources include activities for PE, Music, Art, Foreign Language, Computer Science, Engineering, Reading, Writing, Math, Science, and more.

If you are able to, incorporate these resources into your student's daily schedule to increase the variety in their learning and keep them engage.

We know that you are likely new to working with your children in this capacity at home. We are here to support you through this process to do this together to continue to deliver your child an excellent education even during unusual times.

