

Remote Learning Plan

Updated for SY24-25

Introduction: This remote learning plan outlines Brilla Public Charter Schools' approach to maintaining instructional continuity during unexpected closures, such as snow days beyond the first day. The plan emphasizes strong support for reading, math, and core subjects, while ensuring that students and families have the resources necessary for success, including internet access and meals. This document meets the New York State Department of Education's requirements for instructional continuity and addresses how we will maintain engagement, monitor attendance, and support students' academic progress during remote learning.

Brilla Public Charter Schools has drawn on the lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic closures, prioritizing strong teacher practice, frequent assessments, and clear communication with families. These elements, along with ensuring that students return to in-person learning as swiftly as possible, remain at the core of this remote learning plan.

1. Key Principles

- **Core Instructional Focus:** Brilla's primary focus will remain on critical academic areas, including reading, math, and character education, with an emphasis on extended literacy time.
- **Alignment with Pacing Guide:** All instruction will continue to follow the established curriculum pacing guides, ensuring that students stay on track with grade-level content and standards, even during remote learning periods.
- **Frequent Assessments:** Regular assessments of student progress will be a cornerstone of the plan, as frequent checks for understanding and adjusting instruction were vital during COVID-19 remote learning.
- **Swift Return to In-Person Learning:** Remote learning is viewed as a temporary solution, and Brilla is committed to resuming in-person instruction as soon as it is safe and feasible, recognizing that face-to-face instruction is most effective for student growth.
- **Support for Families:** Families will be provided with the resources and guidance they need to support their children's learning at home, including clear schedules, communication from teachers, access to meals, and technical support.

2. Remote Learning Overview

The remote learning plan consists of both live, synchronous instruction and asynchronous activities, designed to meet the instructional needs of students from kindergarten through eighth grade. Instruction will focus on literacy, math, and core subjects, with extended literacy blocks to ensure that students continue to develop critical reading and writing skills. All lessons will be delivered according to the established pacing guide to ensure alignment with Brilla's curriculum.

2.1 Content Delivery

- **Grades K-4:**
 - **Live Instruction:** Daily live, small-group lessons led by teachers in reading, writing, and math (with extended time for literacy—50 minutes for reading/writing and 25 minutes for math).
 - **Blended Learning:** Students will engage in Brilla's blended learning program for reading and math practice and reinforcement (15-45 minutes).
 - **Independent Reading:** Students will read for 30 minutes each day and log their reading.
- **Grades 5-8:**
 - **Live Instruction:** Daily live, small-group lessons in literacy (extended to 50 minutes), math, and science/humanities (25-45 minutes per subject).
 - **Blended Learning:** Students will engage in Brilla's blended learning program for additional math and literacy practice (30-45 minutes).
 - **Independent Reading:** Students will independently read for 30 minutes daily and log their reading.

2.2 Teacher Practice

- **Strong Teacher Instruction:** High-quality teacher instruction will be critical, with teachers using data from assessments to adapt lessons in real time, reteaching material as needed to ensure mastery.
- **Professional Development:** Teachers will continue to receive support and professional development in remote learning strategies, data analysis, and instructional practices to maintain high standards of teaching.
- **Frequent Feedback:** Teachers will provide students with timely, constructive feedback on their work to ensure continued progress.

3. Student and Family Support

3.1 Mobile Devices and Internet Access

- Brilla will survey families to determine their need for mobile devices and internet access. Devices will be provided as needed, and the operations team will work with local internet providers to ensure connectivity for all families.

3.2 Meals

- During extended closures, students will have access to meals through designated pickup locations at school sites. Families will be informed of schedules and locations via email and phone communications.

3.3 Communication with Families

- Teachers will contact families twice per week to provide academic and emotional support. Check-ins will focus on students' progress, emotional well-being, and any challenges they may face in accessing or completing assignments. All teacher-family communications will be tracked for accountability.

4. Attendance and Engagement Monitoring

4.1 Attendance

- Daily attendance will be recorded based on participation in live instruction and the completion of at least one blended learning lesson (for either reading or math) by 3:00 PM each day. Teachers will follow up with families who are unable to meet these requirements and adjust attendance records as needed.

4.2 Assessment and Feedback

- **Frequent Assessments:** To ensure student progress, teachers will conduct regular assessments, both formal and informal, during live instruction. Data collected will help teachers identify gaps in understanding and allow for timely interventions.
- **Feedback and Reteaching:** Teachers will regularly assess students' progress and provide timely, constructive feedback. If gaps in learning are identified, reteaching will be scheduled within the live instruction block or during additional office hours.

5. Special Education Services

5.1 SETTS Support

- Students receiving Special Education Teacher Support Services (SETTS) will have twice-weekly 1:1 or small group sessions with learning specialists via Zoom. Specialists will provide individualized lessons aligned with students' IEP goals.

5.2 Counseling

- Students receiving mandated counseling will have weekly 1:1 sessions with their school social worker. Counseling will take place via Zoom and focus on both academic and emotional support.

6. Sample Schedules

6.1 Grades K-4 Sample Daily Schedule (Extended Literacy Time)

- **8:00-8:50 AM:** Live Literacy Instruction (Reading/Writing)
- **8:50-9:35 AM:** Live Math Instruction
- **9:35-10:00 AM:** Live Nonfiction Studies Lesson
- **10:00-11:00 AM:** Blended Learning for Math and Reading
- **11:00 AM - 12:00 PM:** Independent Reading
- **1:00-2:00 PM:** Playtime or Fine Arts Activities
- **2:00-2:30 PM:** Teacher Check-in and Feedback

6.2 Grades 5-8 Sample Daily Schedule (Extended Literacy Time)

- **8:00-8:50 AM:** Live Literacy Instruction (Reading/Writing)
- **8:50-9:35 AM:** Live Math Instruction
- **9:40-10:25 AM:** Live Science or Humanities Lesson
- **10:45-11:15 AM:** Blended Learning for Math and Literacy
- **11:15 AM - 12:00 PM:** Independent Reading
- **1:00-2:00 PM:** Playtime or Fine Arts Activities
- **2:00-2:30 PM:** Teacher Check-in and Feedback

7. Resumption of Normal Schooling

Once in-person instruction resumes, Brilla will implement academic interventions to address any gaps in learning caused by the closure. Students will receive targeted support through additional tutoring, small-group instruction, and adjusted pacing to ensure they meet academic proficiency standards. Frequent assessments will continue to identify learning gaps and provide students with the necessary support to ensure their success.