

ROAR

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Dr. Brent Hawkins

Livingston ISD  
Superintendent



The district is currently engaging students through remote learning. Never in the history of mankind has a business been asked to pivot so quickly and effectively for those they serve. I'm very proud of our profession of education and very proud of the service that this district is performing. Remote learning is different than homeschooling and homeschooling is different from online learning. Online learning is where curriculum and instruction are placed on a computer. Students get on the computer and they interact and learn. Philosophically, this method is not aligned with how we do things in the district. We believe that learning is social and emotional and that it is much more effective when there is human interaction. Homeschooling, while it has a place in society is where the curriculum is in the home and there is a teacher in the home that teaches a plethora of curriculum to a student or group of students. Remote learning is what we've been asked to do because of a pandemic virus. We feel there's power in public education and in what goes on in our classrooms on a day-to-day basis. But it needs to be the way we deliver instruction to ensure the safety and the well-being of all involved. I've been asked, "Why don't you just do a low-tech version only? Why don't you just pump out the worksheets to everyone and let's just go with a one size fits all program?" We believe so much in our teachers and their capacity to inspire and to excel our students to be the best version of what they want to be in the future. Remote learning for LISD is where our teachers are uploading two lessons each week into Google Classroom or other media.

Our students are getting instruction at home to work through this learning process. Philosophically, this whole program empowers our staff and empowers all the employees of our district to set up these instructional supports for our students and we are thrilled about it. We understand our community and we are approaching this process with common sense at the forefront. We feel that less is more and this is why we have two lessons a week. We want the lessons to be as impacting and powerful as possible as any that we can deliver. We understand that in our households we have students that have no electricity. We have students that have no broadband. We have students that are fighting all kinds of societal problems including poverty. We have students that are grappling with 8 or 9 other siblings and fighting for broadband and so we understand the problems. We know that parents are working and are stressed and trying to do what they need to do to bring revenue into their homes. We get all those things so when we are talking about remote learning, we're not asking parents to teach children. We are asking parents to monitor their students, encourage them and make sure that they are staying on an appropriate timeline so we can maximize learning. Parents can log on to their parent portal to check student grades and ensure that they are meeting expectations. We are in this together and we will work together for success.

Sarah Ege  
Livingston  
High School



At the beginning of the week, I am uploading assignments so that my students have the opportunity to work at their own pace. I write out a daily assignment, and by showing them what they're doing on Monday, it gives them the freedom to work when and how they want to work. It's important that they are able to work at their own pace while at home. When they turn in a journal assignment, I am able to comment on what they are writing about through Google Classroom. I am able to communicate with them on their assignments so that they can get feedback. I can also ask questions or give reminders. If they haven't turned something in or if I have a question about an assignment, I am emailing students, and I can also call parents if necessary. A lot of my work gets done in the evening because I have a 4-year-old daughter. My husband still goes to his job during the day, and a lot of what I do happens in the evening. My daughter, Eve, wants

my attention, and while I'm very grateful that I can do that and we get to spend extra time together, I have to wait until the evening for him to get home so that I can devote time to my classes. I miss being in the classroom. I miss getting to see my students, we read a short story called "The Necklace," and it has a really dramatic ending. I always love to see and hear my student's reactions, and I really miss getting to experience that and to hear about their extracurricular activities. While I'm creating these lessons, it's hard to figure out what they may have questions about because I'm not in class seeing their faces. I miss seeing them, and I really hope that we get to end the year with some time back in the classroom together.



SOCIALIZING BY ZOOM Third-grade students in Mrs. Drake's Cedar Grove Elementary class take the opportunity to catch up with each other once a week in a Zoom meeting held each Tuesday evening.

Livingston ISD teachers share the process of  
Remote Learning



Briana Drake  
Cedar Grove  
Elementary

Andrea Broussard  
Livingston Junior High

I feel like our remote learning is allowing us to be able to be in touch with our students a little bit more one on one. In the classroom, we have a 55 minute class period and we're really rushed sometimes so the benefit that I'm finding in this is that we're able to accommodate children as they need it and we meet them where they are. What I've loved about having Google Meets with our students is that some will stay on after everybody has heard the information that they need to hear. Some will stay to ask questions and also get extra help on things that they're not sure about. They might be a little intimidated to ask questions in front of the group while they're on camera so I feel that this has been helpful. Also, I have students who frequently correspond with me through email. I'm probably in contact with a little over half of my students on a pretty regular basis. They will email, ask questions and I email back as soon as I can which is

probably within a 30-minute time frame so I can get those questions answered. They will take pictures and screenshots of everything they're working on or we can set up a Google Meet to talk one-on-one so they can see know that they are completing the work correctly. In the subject of Writing, it is so very important, and a life skill that they will use the rest of their lives. All of our assignments are put on Google Classroom with a topic listed, and the two assignments that they're receiving each week. We don't want to overwhelm anyone, but when they look in Google Classroom, there is a slideshow with an explanation with extra help that is embedded. The students are encouraged to reach out to us if they need extra help. In the weeks to come, we will actually be doing something called "No Red Ink" which is a really amazing online web-based language learning platform that gives grammar help that will improve their skills. We will also be doing some fun activities about how to persuade



and the students will sending videos using the three types of persuasion. This remote learning is also very different for us at home. I have a son who has returned home from college to continue with online learning and my daughter is a junior in high school and has converted to remote learning. I spend time making sure that my kids at home understand their assignments and that also, your kids understand their assignments. I'm so grateful to help them all, please email your teachers because we are never too busy for our kids in Lion Country.

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