

Learning from a Distance Program (LFDP)

XIAMEN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



SCHOOL YEAR 2021-2022



XIAMEN
INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL
厦门国际学校

School Purpose and Commitment to Learning

XIS Mission

Our mission is to inspire and develop confident, knowledgeable students who enjoy life-long learning, demonstrate global awareness, and contribute compassionately to the world around them.

Introduction

The top priority for XIS is the health and safety of our community members. The COVID-19 pandemic has presented a serious threat to the well being of the school community. Regulations and protocols are implemented to safeguard the community. A consequence of this is that the learning program needs to be altered.

Rationale

Considering the unpredictable nature of the virus and related regulations, XIS is prepared to adapt and deliver learning at short notice to students in any location. While in-person learning on campus is considered optimal, the XIS community will be prepared and flexible to respond to imposed controls and protocols. These impositions are beyond the control of XIS; however, we are committed to ensuring that the loss of learning is minimized. While the LFDP cannot replace on-campus learning, it does provide engaging and meaningful opportunities for students to work independently, develop agency, and to learn how to use a greater variety of tools and strategies.

Despite the lack of access to the school campus, XIS will remain fully operational while implementing the Learning from a Distance program.

Modes of Online Learning

Asynchronous Learning

Asynchronous learning refers to written assignments or pre-recorded video lessons that are created ahead of time for students and can be accessed at any time. Students will access assignments through their designated online learning platform(s). Asynchronous lessons are designed to contain material that is engaging and will promote the connection between the teacher and the student. In other words, asynchronous learning is not simply sharing a lesson and then disengaging.

Synchronous Learning (live classes)

Synchronous learning requires the teacher and students to be “live” at the same time. At XIS, teachers use Microsoft Teams to conduct synchronous learning sessions which may include a combination of a teacher lecture, demonstration, and/or screen sharing. Students engage in the lesson by responding to teacher prompts and asking their own questions. Breakout rooms are often used for small group discussions.

Scenario 1 In-person learning (onsite)

Program Description:

- A traditional learning model where students attend classes from Monday through Friday: all student learning occurs on the XIS campus and is in-person.
- This scenario may or may not include after-school or sports programs.
- Students not able to return to China will learn online via synchronous and asynchronous lessons.

Factors and Conditions:

- Low virus risk level.
- 90-100% of educational staff onsite.
- Necessary hygiene and safety measures are implemented.
- Full clearance to allow all staff and students on site.
- Campus access may be restricted to some community members.



Scenario 2 Blended learning (onsite and online)

Program Description:

- A combination of in-person and online learning.
- Campus is partially or fully open. Students would have classes on campus or online at home, depending on regulations.
- A combination of synchronous and asynchronous classes would be provided.
- This model may or may not include after-school activities and sports programs.



Factors and Conditions:

- Low to medium virus risk level.
- At least 50% of educational staff onsite.
- Necessary hygiene and safety measures are implemented.
- Clearance to allow all or some of staff and students on site.
- Campus access may be restricted to some community members.



Scenario 3 Learning from a Distance (offsite and online)

Program Description:

- All learning is online.
- Campus is closed to students.
- A combination of synchronous and asynchronous classes would be provided.
- This model does not include after-school activities and sports programs.



Factors and Conditions:

- Medium to high virus risk level.
- Campus access may be restricted to staff.
- Partial or no clearance to allow onsite learning.

Academic Schedules

Early Years (Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten)

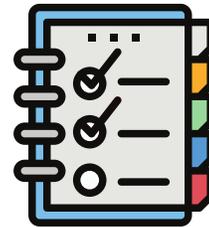
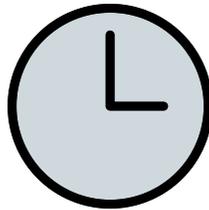
Learning will be mainly focused on emergent literacy and numeracy skills to maintain current skills and build knowledge. It is developmentally appropriate for younger children to spend lots of time playing, exploring, and creating. Packs of learning materials are also sent home to reduce the amount of screen time. Students spend approximately 1 hour per day in homeroom classes with the addition of subject specialist classes.

Elementary School (Grades 1-5)

Classes follow the regular schedule, including subject specialist classes. Students will be given short breaks between classes to allow for transition time.

Secondary School (Grades 6-12)

The regular school schedule is the default schedule for online learning. Students have the same classes as they would when attending school, though they may be participating at different times when asynchronous learning is required.



Expectations for Students

Elementary School (Early Years - Grade 1) Students

- Follow the instructions of teachers with support from parents and/or other caregivers,
- Engage in all learning experiences
- Communicate with parents/caregivers/teachers if they need additional support
- Respond to teacher feedback

Elementary School (Grades 2-5) Students

- Establish daily routines for engaging in the learning experiences
- Attend live sessions
- Complete tasks with commitment
- Identify a space in your home where they can work effectively and successfully
- Regularly monitor online platforms and check messages, e.g., on Microsoft Teams
- Engage in all learning adhering to the XIS academic integrity policy
- Communicate proactively with your parents/teachers if they cannot meet deadlines or require additional support
- Comply with the XIS IT user agreement including expectations for online etiquette
- Complete and post tasks on time
- Read and respond to teacher feedback

Secondary School (Grades 6-12) Students

- Check email, MS Teams, and ManageBac each morning
- If synchronous, follow the regular schedule and attend all classes including homeroom
- If asynchronous, plan the day and then work the plan
- Complete tasks on time
- Adhere to the XIS academic integrity policy
- Comply with the XIS technology acceptable use policy
- Communicate with the teacher if they have questions or difficulty completing a task
- Read and respond to teacher feedback

Parental Role for Online Learning

XIS administrators, teachers, and counselors are available to support all families--it is important that parents stay connected to the school and seek help whenever necessary.

Adapting to the LFDP requires patience, flexibility, and commitment from all parties. For parents and guardians, several challenges may arise when supporting your children in adverse or unfamiliar circumstances.

Learning from a distance requires students to be more independent than is normally the case and it takes a close parent or guardian monitoring for it to be successful. Students will spend more time reading on their own, practicing by themselves, and completing assignments individually. The direct involvement of parents in their child's online learning will increase engagement and success.

Parents can assist their child by:

- ensuring appropriate equipment for distance learning is provided
- establishing routines, quiet study space, and other expectations at home
- beginning and ending each day with a check-in
- supporting their child to follow the recommended hours of online learning each day and keep extra parent-initiated homework to a minimum
- taking an active role in helping their child process his/her learning
- encouraging times away from screens for physical activity, rest, and reflection
- being mindful of their child's stress or worry
- monitoring time online outside of regular classes
- proactively communicating with the school as necessary to provide feedback, ask questions, support the learning process, or inform the school if their child needs any help academically, socially, or emotionally

Managing Screentime

"Screen time" refers to the amount of time a user spends on a device to access onscreen activities. There are limits as to the amount of time everyone should spend online, but the amounts and the rules for screen time vary by age. Videoconferencing and social interactions using video do not count towards screen time.

Recommended screen time as per the American Academy of Pediatrics:

- Ages 2-5: 1 hour, broken into sessions of a maximum of 30 minutes.
- Age 6 and above: no specific screen time limits, but screen time should not affect physical activity and face-to-face interactions at home and school.

Some screen time activities such as online socializing and gaming can be very immersive. Consistent limits on screen time are very important.

Support for Students and Parents

For questions about...

Contact...

A course, assignment, or resource

The classroom or homeroom teacher:

FirstNameLastName@xischina.com.cn

A technology related problem

Information Technology

Coordinator, James Gleeson:

jamesgleeson@xischina.com.cn

Elementary IT Teacher Elaine Li:

elaineli@xischina.com.cn

A personal, academic, or social-emotional concern

XIS Hotline (86 592 6256581) or contact the relevant division secretary who will pass on your concern to the appropriate staff member

Division counselors:

ES Counselor, Terrey Hoosain:

terreyhoosain@xischna.com.cn

Secondary Counselor, Dr. ZeVida A. Holman:

zevidaholman@xischina.com.cn

Other issues related to the Learning from a Distance Program

Division principals:

ES Principal, Mary Collins:

marycollins@xischina.com.cn

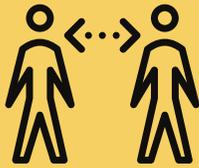
Sec. S. Principal, David Young:

davidyoung@xischina.com.cn

Platforms and Resources Used During the LFDP

Division/Grade	Platforms Used	Other Resources
Early Childhood (Pre-K and Kindergarten)	WeChat Microsoft Teams Email	Raz-Kids Reading Eggs Mathseeds Epic BrainPOP Jr. Twinkl Sora
Elementary Grades 1-2	Seesaw WeChat Microsoft Teams Email	Raz-Kids Epic IXL Math BrainPOP Jr. Twinkl Sora
Elementary Grades 3-5	Seesaw WeChat Microsoft Teams Email	Raz-Kids Epic IXL Math BrainPOP Encyclopedia Britannica Sora
Secondary School (Grades 6-12)	ManageBac Microsoft Teams Email	XIS Library Website XIS Library Catalog Gale Middle School and High School in Context JSTOR Brain Pop Encyclopedia Britannica Sora Infobase eBooks IXL Math and English Off2Class (for English LA) Other as needed

Health and Safety Practices



After a campus closure, our reopening plans are grounded in the following principles:

- Our school's mission will remain at the forefront of everything we do.
- The health and safety of our community members take precedence.
- XIS will heed to all governmental regulations and mandates. In-person learning is our preference and our objective.

To maintain the health and safety of the XIS community, the following measures will be implemented upon reopening the campus:

Physical distancing: students, faculty, and staff must maintain 1m of distance at all times; space design, furniture placement, and directional flow of movement will facilitate physical distancing

Health screening: temperatures will be taken each morning and afternoon; a separate isolation space will accommodate those with symptoms; contact tracing will be activated when appropriate

Density reduction: modification of schedules, staggered daily entry and exit procedures, and staggered break and recess times will facilitate the reduction of the concentration of individuals in a given space

Campus access: campus access for parents and visitors will not be permitted

Contact reduction: student contact with others will be minimized via limited movement and exposure throughout the school day

Hygiene practice: students (not including pre-k and kindergarten students), faculty, and staff must wear masks; hand washing and use of hand sanitizer will be procedural throughout the day; the XIS catering company will provide boxed lunches only; students may bring lunches from home

Facility cleaning: campus cleaning and sanitizing protocols will be strictly adhered to

Health and safety communication and training: all community members will be trained in essential procedures and regulations