

# Preparing for Remote Learning

**USE THIS MEETING** to prepare your students for times when your school will move from in-person to remote learning. During this meeting, the students explore their past experiences with remote learning and then build on those experiences to plan for how they can continue caring for classmates and learning while away from school.

30 minutes

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# CLASS MEETING

## Preparing for Remote Learning

### PURPOSE

- Discuss ways to be responsible outside of school
- Discuss ways to be friendly and caring outside of school
- Speak clearly and listen to one another

### MATERIALS

- “Class Meeting Rules” chart

### 1 Introduce Today’s Class Meeting Topic (5 minutes)

Quickly and randomly pair students, and have them bring their chairs to the circle, with partners sitting together. Briefly review the “Class Meeting Rules” chart.

Explain that today the students will prepare for remote learning. Tell them that during this meeting they will think about what they need to do while away from school to stay connected to one another and continue learning.

### 2 Discuss Past Experiences with Remote Learning (10 minutes)

If applicable, point out some different ways that the students have been caring and responsible during past remote learning periods.

Tell the students that to begin to get ready for remote learning, they will think about their past experiences with it.

Ask and discuss, first in pairs and then as a class:

**Q** *What went well the last time we participated in remote learning? What was challenging?* [pause] *Turn to your partner.*

#### **Students might say:**

- “Last time we met as a class often, and that helped me not feel so lonely.”
- “I figured out how to use our class assignment platform and how to meet on a computer.”
- “I missed everybody and got a little lonely.”
- “Usually at school we did projects and lots of work together, but at home I had to just do it on my own.”

### Teacher Note

If this is the students’ first experience with remote learning, skip this step and go directly to Step 3.



### Facilitation Tip

Continue to focus on responding neutrally with interest during class discussions by refraining from overtly praising or criticizing the students’ responses. This is particularly important when students discuss their experiences outside of school as responses from you could unintentionally elevate some students’ experiences over others. Respond with interest while avoiding evaluative statements, whether positive or negative.

Ask and discuss as a class:

- Q *What did you do to stay connected with your class and classmates the last time we had remote learning?*
- Q *How did you take responsibility for your learning the last time we had remote learning?*

**Students might say:**

- “Last time we had class meetings and small group meetings. I saw everyone there.”
- “I called some people on the phone to talk.”
- “It was hard because I don’t have a desk, but I kept all my materials in my school backpack so I would be organized.”
- “I made sure I didn’t get behind. I did some work every day.”

### 3 Discuss and Plan for Responsible and Caring Behavior (10 minutes)

Tell students that they will now think about what they can do to care for one another and their learning during remote learning time.

Ask and discuss, first in pairs, and then as a class:

- Q *How can you act in caring and friendly ways at home during remote learning? [pause] Turn to your partner.*
- Q *How can we stay connected and be friendly and caring toward one another during remote learning? [pause] Turn to your partner.*

**Students might say:**

- “I can try to help my brother and sister with their school stuff.”
- “I can try not to bug my little brother.”
- “I can call someone in our class.”
- “I can send people messages through you. Maybe we can even draw pictures and have our parents take a picture to send to you for someone else.”

Ask and discuss, first in pairs, and then as a class:

- Q *What are some things you can do to get ready to learn at home? [pause] Turn to your partner.*
- Q *What is one new thing you can try to do at home to be more responsible for learning? [pause] Turn to your partner.*

***Students might say:***

- “I need to make sure I have my at-home notebook.”
- “I’m also going to take home paper and a pencil this time. I didn’t have enough paper last time.”
- “I am going to try to find a time to do my work every day so my mom doesn’t have to remind me.”
- “This time I am going to try to do everything on time so I don’t get behind.”
- “I am going to go to office hours so I can talk to you and ask for help if I need it.”

**4 Summarize and Adjourn the Meeting****(5 minutes)**

Summarize the students’ ideas for ways that they can continue to be a caring learning community during remote learning. Encourage the students to try out their ideas, and tell them that you will check in with them during remote learning Class Meetings.

Adjourn the meeting and have the students return to their seats.

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**AFTER THIS MEETING**

Periodically ask the students to share how they are doing staying connected and taking responsibility for their learning at home, and if they have been able to try out their ideas for doing so. Point out ways that you notice students showing care for others and continuing to be responsible learners. Also look for opportunities to communicate with families about how students are doing emotionally and academically while learning from home.