



Joint Information Center - JIC Release No. 38
March 30, 2020, 4:40 p.m. (ChST)

**GDOE Launches Distance Learning Website;
DPHSS COVID-19 Coloring Book Available Online**

The Guam Department of Education (GDOE) announced the launch of their website to support distance/online learning during this period of school closures.

“We realize that there is a wide variety of learning needs that have to be addressed during this time and we want to give all our students the ability to pursue education and practice their academic and social skills while at home,” said Jon Fernandez, GDOE Superintendent. “We anticipate that some GDOE teachers have already reached out to their students and provided subject matter work, but for those who have not been able to do so, there are still many options that are online and free.”

Parents, students, and interested individuals can access the Home Learning website at <http://bit.ly/GDOEDistanceLearning> or through the GDOE Main Page at: www.gdoe.net.

The website is intended to initially provide useful resources for parents to lead instruction at home. Beginning April 6, 2020, weekly instruction will be supported for elementary, middle and high school students along with opportunities for teacher feedback. Accommodations for those without internet or computer access at home are being explored and will be announced soon.

Parents and students can choose sites that are focused on their specific grade level from elementary, middle and high school. They can utilize sites with or without logins and can work on a variety of subjects ranging from Math and English to Coding and Art.

Low/No Tech Ideas for all

Below are additional fun options for students and families who will have little to no access to the internet and online resources:

Tech free ideas to learn at home

- **Language Development:** Rhyming games; clap and count syllables (you say “water” they clap and say “wa-ter 2”); thumbs up rhyme: give two words and they repeat them and give thumbs up if they rhyme; read to a younger sibling or adult.
- **Reading:** For students of all ages, students can practice reading a passage aloud clearly, accurately, and with the right speed and emotion. Then, they can summarize and discuss what they read with other children or adults in the house. Newspapers are great for grades 3 and above. When reading a newspaper aloud, students can practice “reading like a reporter” on TV.

- **Writing:** Write a letter to a friend, teacher or family member; keep a daily journal; write a thank you note; write and illustrate a short story; practice penmanship/letter formation; write the room: walk around the house and write down words you see.
- **Math:** Cook or bake with an adult using measurements; go on a shape hunt; sort toys by color/shape/size; measure and record: how far can you jump, toss etc.; teach a sibling/parent/adult how to count, add or subtract.
- **Science/SS:** Plant a seed and record observations; go on a nature walk and write down your observations; keep a daily weather report log; plan a trip to somewhere you haven't been. Write your plans.
- **Health/PE:** Help prepare a healthy meal; be a food critic with your meal; do stretches as a family or with a partner; eat the rainbow/eat healthy snacks; make up a new sport or game to play.
- **Art:** Create a self-portrait with any material you have; draw a mural with chalk; make up a song; put on a talent show; make up a dance routine; create a collage from magazine cut-outs.
- **Social/Emotional:** Write/draw your feelings about being home, being away from friends or missing school; play a board game; call a grandparent/friend and ask about their day; practice breathing exercises if feeling anxious; use puppets/stuffed animals to discuss feelings.

LearnCHamoru

The CHamoru Studies & Special Projects Division has provided lessons for our students who want to continue their language learning. Those interested can check out the website at: <https://www.learningchamoru.com/login#>. The website will be regularly updated with new links and added information.

“We realize that there will be many options for parents and students to choose from. We advise them to find the ones that will meet their needs best in each individual household and to set aside time in the day for some fun learning as a family,” Joe Sanchez, Deputy Superintendent of Curriculum and Instructional Improvement, said. “We are committed to providing the best options for everyone so please stay posted as we overcome this crisis together.”

DPHSS COVID-19 Coloring Book

The Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS) has created a coloring book to teach children about the Coronavirus. The coloring book can be downloaded here: <http://dphss.guam.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/COVID-19-Kids-Coloring-Book-.pdf>.

For inquiries on COVID-19, local numbers can dial 311 or contact the Joint Information Center at (671) 478-0208/09/10.

-###-