STOH eLearning Information for Students and Parents

After a year of planning, the School Town of Highland is proud to have been approved by the Indiana Department of Education to utilize eLearning days during the 2018-19 school year. eLearning stands for *electronic learning* that can be accomplished by students working on a device from home through the internet.

While there are many excellent reasons for conducting a district-wide eLearning day, the primary benefits are that students have the opportunity to learn in a blended environment that has been curated by a professional teacher and that promotes skills that are reflective of real-world learning. The experience provides students with an opportunity to enhance technical and organizational skills sought by employers and colleges. Some of the added benefits of eLearning are that it allows for the opportunity to limit makeup days in the future due to inclement weather and it also expands opportunities for schools to conduct professional development for their staff without disrupting the educational process.

STOH is providing information to help students and parents access assignments and materials during our first planned eLearning day scheduled for **November 6, 2018**. Our mission is to connect each student to his/her teacher's eLearning opportunities. Please let your child's teacher(s) or principal know if you need further assistance or clarification on accessing your child's eLearning content on November 6. It is our priority to make this learning opportunity succeed for our students. STOH welcomes parents in joining their child on their eLearning experience.

Important information for students and parents regarding eLearning:

General Information

November 6, 2018, is the scheduled eLearning day for 2018-19.

- After completion of the November 6 eLearning day, STOH will complete parent/staff surveys to reflect on the success of the program.

All K-12 Teachers will post all applicable lessons within their Google Classrooms.

- Google Classroom is the platform most teachers will be using during our eLearning Day. All students will experience logging into Google Classroom prior to the eLearning day.

- Students can access their work in Google Classroom via a computer, tablet, or smartphone.

- Students can set their own schedule for completing lessons that day, but please note teachers have set office hours to answer any questions (see below).

Devices for students:

K-12: Students will complete their lessons and assignments using their STOH issued iPads at home.

● If your child forgot their iPad or it's not working, any connected device can accomplish the same goal.

More information about eLearning can be found from the Indiana Department of Education at the Indiana DOE Office of eLearning.

If a student is having trouble with internet connectivity or does not have access to a device:

- It's OK! A student has 72 hours to complete assignments.

- Students can still use a cell phone to check assignments.

- For some assignments, students may be able to do the actual thinking, writing, or video process while at home and then upload the assignment when they return to school.

- **Students will not be penalized if they cannot access internet service. They will have until 9:00 a.m. on November 9 to complete the work once they return to school.**

Attendance, Grading, Logistics

eLearning material assigned by teachers will cover content that would have been addressed if school were in session, continuing the classroom momentum into the eLearning day.

The student's responsibility is to complete and turn in any assigned work within 72 hours after the eLearning day. **eLearning assignments are due by 9:00 a.m. on November 9** (72 hours from when materials are posted)

If a student does not participate in eLearning, they will be marked with an "unexcused absence" unless a valid excuse is given to the school for the missed eLearning day.

- If your child is unable to participate in eLearning due to reasons as stated in the Student Handbook, contact your child's school to report the absence as you would any other day.

- Attendance will be taken by checking for completion of assignments.

Teachers will be accessible via email, or some other online platform such as Remind during the eLearning day from **9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.** to answer student and/or parent/guardian questions.

  ○ *Please note: Your child has 72 hours to complete eLearning assignments. It is the teacher's intent to respond to questions/concerns during office hours. However, if you do not receive a response, your child will be able to communicate with the teacher the following day.*

Vocational students are not required to attend their classes on the November 6, 2018 eLearning day.

Special Education, 504s, ILPs

All students who have accommodations for instruction, students with IEPs or ILPs, will be provided with or have access to those accommodations. Please work with your SpEd teacher and your EL teachers in accordance with IEPs and ILPs.

● For students for whom an online platform is not appropriate, teachers will provide parents with appropriate educational materials and learning activities. To clarify, these students are allowed to receive paper/pencil content.

The following are possible options for STOH families Wi-Fi:

Comcast Internet Essentials:

Provides full Internet access for less than $10 a month.

Cell Phone Hotspot or Tethering:

Families may have internet connectivity using a cell phone as a hotspot or through tethering. Families would need to check with their cell phone provider; there could be added data cost.

A friend or relative's Internet access:

This could be a great time for students to collaborate with friends or relatives while sharing Internet connectivity.

Apartment or Association Clubhouse:

If families live in apartments, associations, or condos, many supply Wi-Fi in their clubhouse. It will also be important to bring a charged computer/iPad and headsets for privacy and the privacy of others.

Church and/or Social Club Internet Access:

While STOH is not working directly with any churches or clubs, families may contact their church, house of worship, or social club. It will also be important to bring a charged computer/iPad and headsets for privacy and the privacy of others.

Area Businesses:

Local restaurants, coffee houses, or bookstores could be used on occasion for Wi-Fi connection. It will also be important to bring a charged computer/iPad and headsets.

Highland Public Library: **2841 Jewett Street, Highland, IN 46322**
10 Stations available - students under 18 need to have a parent sign off for web use.
Free Wi-Fi access; public computers available with a valid library card.