

REMOTE SCHOOL DAYS FAQ

Five Town CSD/MSAD 28

1. What are the “Remote School Days” I am hearing about?

A remote school day may occur when school would otherwise be cancelled due to inclement weather. Students will do their school day at home. Instruction is provided by each student’s teacher through the use of technology in Gr. 7 – 12, and via pre-arranged work bundles in Gr. K - 6.

2. Why are we implementing these days?

Remote School Days will allow our academic schedule to continue uninterrupted, which is vital to both short-term and long-term learning and success. These days will also enable us to take advantage of our investment in technology, will help students develop skills in independence and time management, and will enable us to end school earlier in June. A benefit for older students is the opportunity to experience the common practice of working remotely in today’s economy.

3. When will Remote School Days be used?

We plan to use a Remote School Day on the first two inclement weather days after Dec. 1 that are NOT expected to involve power outages.

4. How will students and parents be notified if a Remote School Day will be used?

Families will be notified of Remote School Day days just as they are notified of school delays and closings via automated calling system. We do NOT intend to post to media outlets, but we will post to our website in addition to making calls.

5. How will students know what is expected of them on Remote School Days?

Work for students in Gr. 7 – 12 will be posted by their teacher(s) by 10:00AM on the Remote School Day. In Gr. K – 6, students/parents will get instruction on or around December 1 for what to expect. Their work will not be online.

6. Will teachers be available that day?

Yes. All teachers in the district will be available via email from 10am – 4pm on the Remote School Day. If a teacher is absent, s/he will have an emergency Remote School Day plan that is shared ahead of time with students.

7. What do I do if I don't have internet at home?

We will conduct a student survey to determine who does not have internet access at home. The district is seeking funding to provide a Kajeet “hotspot” that uses cellular service to provide internet to all Gr. 7 – 12 student homes that do not currently have it.

<https://www.kajeet.net/smartspot>

8. What do I do if I have technology related questions during an Remote School Day day?

If you are having technology related issues, please feel free to contact our Technology Department from 10am – 4pm via email it@fivetowns.net or phone at 236-7800 ext. 3690. Our tech team will be available to help troubleshoot tech issues.

9. How will Remote School Day impact after school activities?

After school activities will be treated the same as if school were closed. All elementary activities will be canceled. Middle School and High School activities will be determined case by case depending on the weather and road conditions.

10. What happens if our 7 - 12 student does not have their device on the Remote School Day?

Students in this situation should try to use a different family device or go to a public library to access the internet. If a student is unable to secure a device, s/he will be considered absent that day and normal procedures for absences will be put in place regarding make-up work.

11. Do students with special needs also need to be provided with and complete Remote School Day work?

Yes. Most students in this situation will have accommodations in place to allow them to access the regular Remote School Day with support from case managers and ed techs who will be available remotely. However, we will have a separate plan for students who are unable to access the assigned remote work even with the accommodations.

12. I am a teacher and have no power.

Most employees in the state of Maine drive to work when it snows, and although teachers sometimes got these days off in the past, on a Remote School Day, you will be expected to do what you can to get to a place that has power and internet service so that you can work. Remember, we are NOT going to have a Remote School Day on a day where widespread power outages are expected. If a teacher cannot find power/internet access, it will need to be taken as a personal or sick day.

13. I am a teacher and I have young children at home that don't have school and I need to take care of.

In this situation, you will need to take a personal or sick day if you cannot make arrangements for your children on this work day.

14. How are you going to measure the effectiveness of the day?

In the short term, it will be a combination of anecdotal information and work completion data. If it is clearly a disaster, we won't do it for a second day this year. If it was somewhat of a success, we will try to improve it for the second attempt. If we do it two days, we will conduct a survey in early spring to gather data to evaluate the idea.

15. How will attendance be taken?

- Grades 7 – 12: Students are all marked present. However, if they do not turn in work for a class, they will be marked absent for that class.
- Grades K – 6: Students are all marked present. The work is due two days after the Remote School Day unless other arrangements are made.
- If we have a student whose parent reports via email that the student is sick or out of town, they will be marked absent.
- It is important to remember that teachers will only be available for assistance from 10am – 4pm of the Remote School Day.

16. What if a student attends MCST?

If there is a Remote School Day at CHRHS, it is likely that MCST will be closed. Students who attend MCST will need to do the work for the CHRHS classes on the Remote School Day and will need to make up their half day MCST snow day at the end of the year, or whenever MCST makes up that snow day.

17. What if a student attends Day Care on the Remote School Day?

This situation is most applicable to CRES students. They may be able to do their work ahead of time, or they can take their "Genius Bag" to day care and do their work there that day. We plan to talk to the larger day care centers about our plan. Parents can communicate with smaller or private providers about the expectations.