

Google Meet is a platform that allows students and teachers to experience face to face instruction during the school closure. Students use a specific link provided by the teacher in a password protected format, such as Google Classroom or via e-mail. This video conferencing tool is one way in which students and teachers can interact in real time, ask questions, or have short lessons.

We understand the challenges of remote instruction and would like to present the following norms to you and your children regarding Google Meet and videoconferencing with their teachers. Please try to remember that although we are at home, this should be considered instructional time, and various norms that would apply in the classroom also apply to this situation.

1. Students should not be on phones during a Google meet, unless that is the device being used for the Google Meet. Having a side conversation via text is not only preventing your child from fully participating in the learning opportunity, it can be distracting to students who aren't part of the "conversation", but see it going on around them.
2. Google Meet has a chat function. This is a great way for students to pose questions that might be helpful for the class. The chat function should not be used for side conversations or off-topic discussion.
3. Students should be doing their best not to distract others. Being at home while learning (and sometimes teaching!) is distracting in and of itself. Coming to the meeting in silly hats or clothing, completing other tasks while on the video conference, dancing, playing music, etc., can pose more distractions to the other students in the video conference. Students who cause distractions and do not follow these norms could be eliminated from the Google Meeting based on the discretion of the teacher. If this problem occurs, parents will be contacted via email.
4. Students should prepare to go into the conference on "mute" and stay muted until necessary. This is a life lesson and proper etiquette for conference calls they will have in the future. The general rule of "one person talks while the others listen" is especially important while video conferencing.

Video conferencing, although it is a newer endeavor in public school education during these times, is actually something students will likely use later in life. Learning the proper etiquette for these situations is important for them to learn as they grow into young adults. This is a learning experience for all, and this is just another example of how we are learning beyond content.