



## EHS Student and Support Persons Distance Learning Guide

### **Distance Learning During the COVID-19 Pandemic**

There is a lot of research and good evidence that high-quality learning can happen in distance learning formats. However, all that research took place in different context than today's. Distance learning during a global pandemic has no precedent. Schools, teachers, students, and support persons will have to adopt new teaching and learning practices, be focused on learning, and committed to continuing the education process to meet their academic goals. To support students' learning goals while distance learning is taking place at Edge during the '20-'21 school year, this guide will provide some initial information, guidance, and expectations for you to follow.

***Here are three important principles for students and support persons to consider for succeeding this school year:***

**1. Commitment, and flexibility.** It is unreasonable to expect educators, families, and students today to maintain their old normal, even if they were distance learners before. Although the COVID pandemic has changed our lives, with so many things unknown about the future and feeling out of our control, hopefully we can all agree on the importance of persevering to continue the education process and to achieve students' educational goals. **Students:** Edge staff knows that under the current circumstances, attending and completing schoolwork daily may be really challenging. ***If***, however, you do not follow through to make school a priority, you are giving up one of the few things that you may have some control over; earning a high school diploma. *Whatever the future holds we know your diploma will be important to your success. Whatever the circumstances and challenges we face when school resumes, it is our hope that you will rise to the occasion!*

**2. Responsibility, and communication.** The transition from face-to-face instruction to instruction in a distance learning format requires students, their families, and teachers to take on new challenges, roles, and responsibilities. Learners and their families are also likely to be confused about what their educational institutions are expecting of them. To facilitate quality learning, students and families will have to commit to engaging in the distance learning format, taking responsibility for understanding what is expected on your part with regards to school policies, course requirements, and especially communication with Edge staff and teachers.

**3. Having a "Growth Mindset".** Believe in your ability to learn and persist even when it is challenging and there are set-backs. When your distance learning plans do not work out (*and, in all likelihood, at least some of them will not*), understand that it is an opportunity to learn, problem solve, and grow!

***\*PLEASE do not hesitate to let Edge teachers or staff know before, or during the school year how we can better support your student!***

## Edge's Distance Learning Model

Edge's distance learning model (DL) will include both self-directed independent online study by students, and real time online classroom instruction using Google Classroom and the Google Meets video conferencing platform. Additionally, for some subjects, recorded lessons and video tutorials may also be available. *(Students will be receiving more information about all of the online learning platforms Edge will be using for curriculum and instruction, and all of their account credentials for accessing them before or on your first day of school)* **Students doing distance learning will be tasked to work on their courses during specific times of the day that follow their class schedule as if they were attending school in person.**

### Attendance

It is Edge's school policy during distance learning, that students will attend online classes daily following their class schedule. This will mean logging into each of your classes' Google Classroom portal on time each day for attendance as you would as you would be expected if attending in-person. **As well as, on-time daily attendance, taken at the start of each of students' scheduled classes, Edge teachers will be working with students to set daily or weekly communication expectations and course-work productivity goals. These expectations and goals will include, not just logging activity time in the online curriculum, but regularly communicating with teachers, attending scheduled meetings, completing assignments, tests, and projects when they are due.** Students, and their support persons are expected to let the Edge High School office at their campus know by phone any school day that the student will be absent for any reason. *(See Edge's attendance policies in the Edge Student Handbook)*

### Support Persons and Student Communication

Edge High School staff and teachers will be communicating with families and support persons regularly through our School Messenger phone and text messaging system, staff/ teacher phone calls and emails, and through announcements on our school website at: [edgehighschool.org](http://edgehighschool.org). **Students will be expected to check their Edge Gmail account, Google classroom and Google Calendar daily** for important teacher and school communications, class announcements, assignments, and online meeting invitations. Students are also expected to communicate with their teachers using Gmail, in Google Classroom, Google Meets, Google Calendar, and other online platforms as directed. **(\*Note: Individual Edge teachers will not be responsible for communicating directly with students by phone or text, unless that teacher has explicitly posted that information on their Google Classroom homepage, with information on how and when it is appropriate. It will be the student's responsibility to communicate with teachers and staff as directed!)** A complete staff directory of contact information can be accessed on Edge's school website: [edgehighschool.org](http://edgehighschool.org)

### Technology and Support

Edge HS will provide a Chromebook laptop to every student that needs one to successfully engage with online learning. Students and support persons are responsible for the proper care and good condition of their school laptop upon its return to Edge. Edge's IT Coordinator and staff will do it's best to provide technical support for these devices, but will not provide technical support for personal devices or out-of-school Wi-Fi/ internet service. Please contact Edge HS at: 520-881-1389 for technical support or more information about our student laptop program while the school is delivering distance learning instruction.