

What Distance Learning Is

There are two models of online teaching and learning:

1. **Synchronous learning** takes place when students and teachers are working together and interacting in a digital space concurrently. An example of this would be when teachers and students are having a phone consultation or a video conference with the entire class at once in real time.
2. **Asynchronous learning** takes place when teachers post instructions and learning materials online. Students engage with class materials and complete work at their own pace within a given timeframe. An example of this would be when students are asked to log into Google Classroom to access posted assignments, complete the assignment and return it to the teacher through Google Classroom posting.

Westbrook teachers will be using both of these types of distance learning. Your child's principal and teachers will provide more specific details about distance learning as it looks for your child's school and grade level. In the first days of distance learning, teachers will focus on how they will deliver instruction and check in with students and parents about questions and concerns.

You may have been concerned that you must suddenly equip yourself to home school your child. This is not the case, although students will need your assistance accessing the online tools the district's teachers will be using to deliver instruction, and they will need assistance in following a schedule of instruction (see below). For example, your child's teacher may want them to sign in to Google Hangouts at scheduled times to receive direct instruction from the teacher. You will need to help your child sign in to Google Hangouts at that pre-arranged time. Or, your child may need to view a recorded video lesson from a teacher and then complete assignments they must download from Google Classrooms. Don't worry, we have technical support for you (see below). Teachers will also be available to assist you with support for your child during distance learning.