

**P2 / TEAMS**

This will be the hub

**P3 / REMOTE LEARNING**

Stay connected with students while they're home communicating & sharing assignments.

**P3 / ONLINE TIPS**

See what is going on in the world of STEM education.

**P4 / FREE RESOURCES**

You have access to a number of resources, but did you know it?.

# District 75 STEMConnect

## BREAKING NEWS

### CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

**All NYC public schools closed starting tomorrow**

## Corona Virus & Closings

NYC Schools are officially closed due to COVID-19 and we are in an unsure time for how to proceed.

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Even before the closing it was clear that Pas would have to be held remotely where possible. More information will come, but the sessions will likely be reduced in time and utilize [Microsoft Teams](#).

More information will come shortly, but you can find training resources on the [D75 STEM Site](#).

### LEGO LEAGUE

It is with sadness that we had already cancelled LEGO League and we won't get to see first hand the wonderful student projects. We are however creating a [virtual LEGO League space](#) where classes can still share their creations. Follow the directions to [submit](#) for your team.

### REMOTE LEARNING

This entire newsletter will be dedicated to mobile learning, but here is some overriding help. Begin with the [NYCDOE RTOL training](#).

- [NYCDOE Learn at Home Activities](#)
  - NYC [School Closure Guidance](#) doc
  - Harvard's [best online pedagogy practices](#)
  - Find [tips for parents](#) and [10 technical tips for distance learning](#)
  - [12 weeks of home STEM activities](#)
  - [COVID 19 Camp](#) provides a variety of activities
  - An [at-home learning schedule](#)
- You can find more [best practices](#) and [online activity resources](#) for more resources.

## Skill of the Month

### Remote Learning

Even though [most schools are unprepared for virtual learning](#), we must now move quickly to begin. Teams with Skype is the best place to begin since it is innately connected to Office 365.

#### FLIPGRID

While avoiding illness catch the [Flipgrid Fever](#) with an intrinsically motivating video platform (available in Microsoft Teams) that can be used to empower student voices. They have provided a [one-page start-up guide](#) to get you rolling with remote learning and a [further explanation](#) to dig deeper. They also have a [family guide](#), a [Disco Library playlist](#) filled with at-home learning ideas.

#### CLASSROOM & MEET

Google Classroom is the hub for connecting students online and it integrates with nearly every other ed-tech platform. Check [their guides and training modules](#) to get up to

speed. Add to that [Google Meet](#) and you have now enabled video conferencing, screen sharing, and chat and they're giving their [advanced](#) version for free. It's easy to add a virtual meeting [with a simple calendar invite](#) where you can schedule school "office hours".

There's also Jamboard, available in the [Play Store](#) or the Apple [App Store](#) for collaborative whiteboard work. You can also find their recommendations for the [first day of Jamboard](#) or solve issues through the [Jamboard Help Center](#). For further training, check out their [distance learning resources](#) and [blog posts](#).

#### MORE OPTIONS

**Apple Schoolwork:** Apple's main systems, [Classroom](#) is set up for managing iPads, but [Schoolwork](#) will monitor student work as its completed at home. [Facetime](#) is more social, but it will allow for



limited face to face communication with students.

[Zoom](#) is one of our favorite's for group video chats. It is the platform we used to stream events like our STEM Fair and communicate around the city. Like many others, it works with multiple web and mobile platforms. Zoom is now offering [free premium features](#) for closed schools.

[Parlay:](#) This is a really nice hub for student communication. Yes it allows for prompts and responses, but their [live discussion socratic seminars](#) are pretty cool. And, in light of school closures, they are currently [offering it for free](#). There are [other options](#) you can explore as well.



## App of the Month

[Microsoft Teams](#) is the collaboration, communication, and file hub for O365. We foresee that it can become a valuable tool for connecting your schools to various sites, streamlining workflow, improving communication, and maximizing the impact of instructional initiatives and professional development.

#### FEATURES

- Group conversations & private chats
- Video conferencing for 200+
- Tagging users & assigning tasks
- Shared/embedded files
- Embedded websites
- Shared OneNote notebooks
- Added app functionality

We created the [D75 Tech Liaison Team](#) that houses channels for events, resources, an embedded [STEM site](#), an [accessibility notebook](#), and more. Use the Team as a place for inquiry and connection with your fellow tech liaisons. Further training is available at the [Microsoft Educator Center](#).



# Online Learning Tips



There is a ridiculously long list of options, but given how overwhelmed students, teachers, and parents are already likely to feel in these situations, we shouldn't be aiming to evolve all areas of instruction as we change forms so drastically. This [letter to educators](#) speaks well of this moment. Here are some key things to keep in mind.

1. **Prioritize seeing students:** Schedule time for visual check-ins early and late in the day just so teachers can use the assessment skills they've learned already.
2. **Reintroduce yourself:** If your class is unaccustomed to the new format, introducing expectations and procedures in this environment are a must.
3. **Make time for mindfulness:** I say this as someone who chooses to spend a lot of time on screens. It's hard with that much digital interaction. Platforms like [GoNoodle](#) and [Brain Breaks](#) provide valuable respite along with [breathing exercises like the 7-11 breath](#). There are also other [non-screen activities for home learning](#) you can try. Also check your own well being with the [WE Well-being playbook](#).
4. **Keep it simple:** Now is not the time to try out several new ideas despite the vast number of freebies. There'll be enough new at first if your

students aren't used to a flipped classroom or blended learning. As they get accustomed though, feel free to incorporate more slowly.

5. **Allow for creation:** I won't assume what different groups have in their home. BrainPOP has a variety of digital creation tools or students can be creating and solving [3-Act Math videos](#). Just because we're online doesn't mean we should shift to students as receivers of information rather than creators. In fact, the lack of interaction makes creation more necessary.
6. **Continue to assess and get feedback:** Now more than ever you need to regularly check in on what was understood. There are several tools above to help with that.
7. **Have synchronous and asynchronous tasks:** This might also be a wonderful time for teachers to allow more independence in student activities and methods for how they demonstrate mastery.

**“You can't teach people everything they need to know. The best you can do is position them where they can find what they need to know when they need to know it..”**  
- Seymour Papert

## 10 REMOTE-LEARNING TIPS

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. PRIORITIZE SEEING STUDENTS  | 6. CONTINUE TO GET FEEDBACK               |
| 2. REINTRODUCE YOURSELF        | 7. HAVE SYNCHRONOUS & ASYNCHRONOUS TASKS  |
| 3. MAKE TIME FOR MINDFULNESS   | 8. DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP                    |
| 4. KEEP IT SIMPLE              | 9. SUPPORT RESOURCES                      |
| 5. ALLOW FOR CREATION          | 10. MANAGE YOUR WELL-BEING                |

There are moments for doing things together, but too many classrooms overdo that. Now using some tools like Flipgrid, WeVideo, or EdPuzzle students can work at a different pace. Hey we're learning differentiation in a pandemic.

8. **Dig into digital citizenship:** You should have already done this, but since you are spending a great deal of time online, it's worth a review. And if you hadn't started it's the perfect time to begin.
9. **Provide support resources:** This is a great opportunity to allow for exploration of students and teachers. Set up [webquests](#) and have students explore with more freedom resources that you've shared. Then come back and having a discussion using one of the learning platforms above. The same is true of allowing exploration amongst pre-made resources for teachers.
10. **Manage your own well-being:** You can't help any student well if you are overwhelmed. Here are [ten strategies to handle your well-being](#).

# Free School Closing Resources

Out of beneficence there are a number of ed-tech sites that require a paid subscription (at least for premium features) that are now offering their services for free to schools that are closed due to COVID-19. This list below is by no means exhaustive, but it should help you and your school ease the transition.

## HARDWARE & NETWORK

If your students have older laptops at home, [Neverware](#) is offering their [free CloudReady Home Edition](#) which can turn them into quick and reliable Chromebooks. And while there are free wifi hotspots around including through the [public libraries](#) and [LinkNYC](#), [Comcast is offering Xfinity Wifi for free](#) to help low-income families

**BrainPOP:** One of the most used learning platforms for young learners [does much more than the videos](#) you may know it for. Right now you can [request free access](#) in the wake of school closures.

**EdPuzzle:** Speaking of enhancing videos, Edpuzzle allows teachers to make videos with interactive content embedded. interactive videos for students. They are offering [free access to Edpuzzle Pro](#) to increase storage space for schools affected by COVID-19 closures.

**Discovery Education:** This site has a variety of videos, interactive content, and digital text books. They are offering free access to Discovery Education Experience through the remainder of the school year by [filling out a form](#) or

emailing [EducationPartnerships@discoveryed.com](mailto:EducationPartnerships@discoveryed.com).

**SMART Learning Suite:** The online and interactive display software is offering its tools for free to all affected schools. Just [sign-up here](#).

**Newsela:** The leveled reading and response platform is offering free [teacher and district-wide access](#). Their [COVID 19 resource center](#) includes remote teaching toolkits, micro-lessons, and guides

**Nearpod:** They cancelled their conference, but the original and biggest collaborative presentation and assessment tool is [offering affected schools access to Nearpod](#) and is holding [webinars](#) and sharing [blog tips](#) for remote learning. That's in addition to the vast array of pre-made lessons they already have.

**Pear Deck:** The collaborative presentation tool that works directly

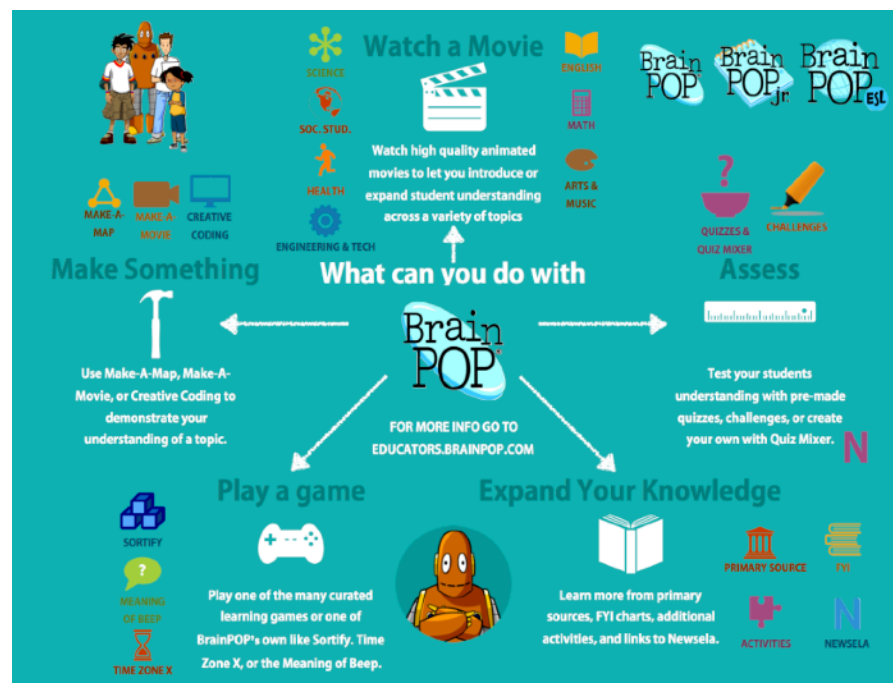
with Google Slides and includes a fun vocabulary game called Flashcard Factory is offering [90 days of premium features](#) for impacted schools.

**Book Creator:** This wonderfully accessible book creation platform is offering [free collaboration trials](#) for affected schools along with [remote learning guides](#).

**Classcraft:** The awesome classroom gamification tool is offering [free schoolwide access](#), weekly PD sessions, and a "how-to" guide for remote learning

**Kahoot! Premium:** Kahoot is one of the more popular [gamified assessment platforms](#). They are offering [free premium access](#) for schools affected by COVID-19. You can also contact them [via their form](#).

**Showbie & Socrative:** These assessment and distance learning



platforms are now offering free service through July when you complete u. They also have guides including [Showbie Distance Learning Resources](#) and [Socrative Distance Learning Resources](#).

**Mouse:** The hands-on and computer science learning folks are now offering [open projects](#) for students to create digitally.

**Sutori:** This other collaborative and interactive presentation tool is offering free unlimited access to closed schools by contacting [help@sutori.com](mailto:help@sutori.com).

**WeVideo:** WeVideo is a solid online video editing platform popular amongst Chromebook users. WeVideo is offering [free access to schools](#) for 90 days.

**ST Math:** These fun math games and visuals are now [offered at no](#)

[cost](#) through June 2020. Just [fill out their form](#).

**Math Playground:** All games are free through June 2020

**BoomWriter:** The platform is to help students spark writing ideas and they have a [guide on beginning remote learning](#).

**Listenwise:** This listening comprehension site lets students listen to podcasts and respond to comprehension questions and other tools to assess comprehension levels. Listenwise is [offering their premium features free](#) until April 30, 2020 for schools affected by COVID-19 when teachers/schools complete a form.

**Codesters:** The online coding platform is offering [a free month](#) of service for closed schools.

## District 75 STEM Next Issue

### APP/SKILL OF THE MONTH

We'll give an overview of an app and teach you about a basic tech skill.

### POST-CLOSING UPDATES

Let's look into what comes next in the midst of this crisis.

**100 Mentors:** This platform allows students to connect with experts for answers. 100 Mentors is [offering its services free](#) to 1000 schools that have closed.

**Kami:** Kami allows you to annotate and collaborate on PDFs. Kami is also [offering free access to schools](#).

You can find many more from [Amazing Educational Resources](#) and the [Wakelet School Closing Resources](#).



## Learning About COVID-19

Students (and everyone else) are bound to have a variety of questions about the current situation. And while it may seem dark or morbid, one of the key jobs of a teacher is meeting students where they are and adapting instruction to real-world situations. Knowledge is also one of the best ways to combat hysteria and false information. Here are some places you can guide your students towards learning more.

- [COVID-19 Data pack](#)
- [CDC Key Facts](#)
- UNESCO's [tracker of educational disruption and response worldwide](#)
- Newsela's [COVID 19 resource center](#)
- [NY Times resources](#)
- [Wakelet COVID-19 Informational Resources](#)
- [How cancelled events save lives](#)
- Apple News [Corona virus updates](#) section

For hands-on learning Sphero has a robotics lesson demonstrating how viruses spread along with a device cleaning guide. And Ozobots offer their own cleaning guide in addition to their new Ozobot Classroom which can allow for remote learning.

