



# LE JARDIN

## ACADEMY

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### **Junior School Distance Learning**

School Year 2020-2021

[www.lejardinacademy.org](http://www.lejardinacademy.org)



# The Value of an IB Primary Years Education

IB teaching methods and curricula are research-based and draw from the best educational practices from systems around the world.

IB teachers are required to participate in many professional development opportunities to continually promote their awareness of current educational practices and new thinking.

The PYP provides an ideal foundation for children to become successful, lifelong learners by developing their:

- Social and emotional well-being
- Independence, as they take responsibility for their own learning
- Understanding of the world and their ability to function effectively within it
- Attitudes and dispositions for learning
- Ability to take mindful, appropriate and sustainable student-initiated action



# Philosophy

At LJA, distance learning has two main aims--to promote student well-being and continued academic growth. We use the term distance learning intentionally instead of online learning to express that **we believe learning can take place at a distance without being in front of a screen all day**. At LJA, we believe that distance learning should be:

- Rooted in our mission
- Based on our existing IB Primary Years Programme (PYP) Curriculum and aligned with the face-to-face (F2F) on-campus learning
- Hands-on and engaging
- Age-appropriate in regard to content, form, and delivery
- A balance of synchronous vs asynchronous depending on age
- Flexible. Teachers are architects of learning experiences. Some weeks may look different from others as experiences may be best delivered via video conference, while others might be best delivered through a hands-on opportunity in which students discover independently
- Centered around strong relationships and communication between students, teachers, and families

# Junior School Distance Learning

Distance learning (DL) can be very overwhelming as it is something new for our youngest learners and their families. In this model, students trade their learning-rich classroom for rich virtual environment in which they interact with their teachers and classmates.



## Junior School Distance Learning (cont'd.)

Our program emphasizes free play within carefully curated environments. Through play, children develop foundational social and emotional, executive functioning, and academic skills. Early childhood educators often act as facilitators, building upon children's natural curiosities. To inspire play, we curate spaces with open-ended materials that provoke children's engagement with each other and their surroundings.

In a distance learning environment, it is essential that these core principles remain. Teachers will work with families to establish play-based, child-centered learning that pushes beyond engaging with a screen. For young learners, virtual meetings are best kept short—a maximum of 15 minutes at a time. To augment this, we will equip parents with tools to foster learning at home.

Our goal remains to have our students and teachers together safely on campus, because we believe that is how young students learn best. However, our distance learning program provides instruction, guidance, and support for families when students need to learn at home.

# Differences between DL and F2F



- F2F instruction is provided by the Homeroom Teacher and DL instruction is provided via Team Teaching, meaning the grade level teachers will each contribute a portion of the experiences
- Morning circles and learning experiences will be asynchronous. Periodically, DL students will be invited to join the class virtually (synchronous) for live class activities
- Detailed lesson plans throughout both DL and F2F

# Junior School Distance Learning Components

- Morning meetings (recordings)
- Live social events to connect students with their peers (eg., snack and/or lunch)
- Direct instruction lessons (recordings)
- Synchronous live events (amount may vary depending on student's age)
- Independent practice, exploration, and hands on discovery
- Social emotional and self-management skill development
- Learning-kit pick-up (at regular times throughout the quarter, students may need to pick up learning kits from their teachers)
- Optional online electives such as challenges and games will be offered



# Assessment & Reporting

## Assessment

The purpose of assessment is to inform learning and teaching. It involves ongoing gathering and analysis of information about student learning to inform future learning experiences. Students in distance learning will be required to submit evidence of their learning (drawings, photos, videos, etc). The evidence gathered is then used to:

- understand where the student is in the learning process,
- curate future learning experiences that continue to challenge the child appropriately.

## Reporting

F2F and DL students will receive report cards. Students in DL will receive a descriptive review for each semester. Students will be required to provide evidence of their learning throughout their time in DL so teachers can assess progress, growth, and development.





# Junior School Distance Learning Schedule

Monday-Friday Schedule for DL and F2F students.

Specials (Art, P.E., Music, Language) will be offered.

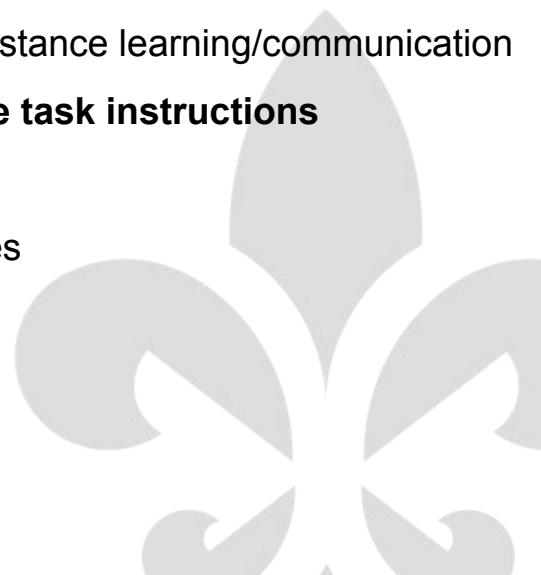
Your child's weekly schedule will be shared in August.



# Improved Distance Learning Platform

Our JS Tech Team has streamlined our tools to ensure:

- **New!** Improved **delivery of instruction**
- **New!** Enhanced parent experience and **one-stop-shop** for all distance learning/communication
- **New!** Capability to insert **video conferencing details within the task instructions**
- **New!** Increased **student independence**
- **New!** Improved **communication** between the school and families



# Technology and Support

## Your Child and the 1:1 Device

Students will be issued an iPad and stylus with all tech tools pre-loaded. Students will gain experience caring for and using their devices at the beginning of the year should your child need to go to Distance Learning at some point during the school year.

## Upcoming Fall Parent Training

- Inquiry, innovation, independence - How to support your child in developing an inquiring, innovative, and independent mindset.
- Communicating with Your Preschooler
- Distance Learning Platform 101 and iPad Training for Parents
- Appointments available for distance learning families in need of device training (Remote or Face-to-face with distancing/masking).



# Roles and Responsibilities

## Teacher Role and Responsibilities

In order to support this learning model, teachers will:

- Curate lessons targeted to challenge your child to further their learning process
- Offer live experiences to encourage engagement
- Support social emotional learning and relationships between students and their peers
- Provide parents with student progress via the report card and parent conferences
- Coordinate and distribute instructional material and supplies
- Provide office hours for one-on-one parent and/or student meetings

# Roles and Responsibilities (cont'd.)

## Parent Role and Responsibilities

In order to support this learning model, parents will:

- Attend required training for distance learning
- Create a healthy work environment for students including quiet work spaces, opportunity for movement, and play
- Support a balanced schedule that includes routines that include morning circles, work time with breaks and consistent bedtimes
- Discuss students' learning with the child
- Support students' inquiry by not giving them all the answers but guiding them in finding their own conclusions
- Support the child in turning in their learning experiences (drawings/videos/photos/etc.).
- Communicate questions and concerns to the teacher



# Opportunities for Parent/Teacher Communication

Introductory conference F2F (August)

Parent night (September)

Homeroom Teacher office hours will be shared

Email/phone

Parent conferences (week of October 26 and week of March 8) via Zoom or F2F

# Opting Into Distance Learning

Students can opt into distance learning each quarter, if the COVID-19 situation changes, or if required to quarantine for 14 days or longer. Students can opt back into face-to-face instruction at the beginning of each quarter.

## Quarterly Windows:

Quarter 1: August 19 - October 9 (Start of School - Fall break)

Quarter 2: October 19- December 18 (Fall break - Winter break)

Quarter 3: January 5 - March 12 (Winter break-Spring break)

Quarter 4: March 22 - June 2 (Spring break - End of year)

Please complete the [Google Form](#) to opt-in to LJA JS distance learning. Parents need to reply by August 1 to opt into DL for the start of the school year



# Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: Do all of the children in my house have to select the same learning environment?**

A: No. We recognize that each child has unique needs. You can opt one child into distance learning and another child into F2F learning on campus.

**Q: Q: If I select the distance learning (DL) option, am I committed for the year?**

A: No. You can opt into distance learning each quarter, if the school elevates to an increased risk level, or in the event of required quarantine. Parents can meet with the principal for special situations. Once a student has begun distance learning we cannot guarantee the ability to return to F2F learning until the end of the quarter.

**Q: If I select distance learning, can my child still participate in field trips?**

A: Yes. Please let your child's teacher know if you would like to participate in a field trip. Distance learning parents will need to drive their child to the field trip and stay for the duration of the experience.

**Q: If I select distance learning, can my child still participate in on-campus after school events and activities (sports, extracurriculars, etc.)?**

A. After school offerings have not been confirmed at the Junior School at this time due in an effort to adhere to Department of Human Services recommendations.