

Ten Guidelines for Parents Supporting Home Learning

1. Keep your family safe and healthy

Please heed the recommendations and mandates from the WHO, CDC, and HDOH. Stay at home and only leave for essential activities.

2. Establish routines and expectations

If you have not already started the practice of having family devotions, this is the perfect time!!

Maintain your regular family routines and expectations. TCS encourages parents to support the TCS set schedule, if possible. Keep regular bedtime routines for all of your children. Avoid letting them stay up late and sleep in late. Your child will benefit from moving regularly and taking breaks throughout the day as they study and implement a new way of learning.

Encourage your child to follow the TCS dress code, sits at a desk or table, and communicate and behave with the same respect and consideration expected on campus.

3. Define the physical space for your child's learning

We recommend a designated area for different types of learning. While your child may have a space for completing homework, this space may not be suitable for an extended time of Home Learning. We recommend that you find multiple common areas (not a bedroom) to allow parents to monitor student's progress throughout the day. We know that students need to move, so identifying multiple spaces for different times of the day that can support their learning.

4. Monitor communication from your child's teachers and the school.

Your child has a daily proposed schedule. Please take advantage of your teacher's office hours. These are excellent opportunities to have one-on-one connections with your teachers and to ask questions. Remember to check for messages at the *beginning* and *end* of each school day.

The teacher's **primary** communication with the parent will be through email, whereas the teacher's **primary** contact with your child is through Microsoft Teams. Teams are where your child will connect with their teachers, their lessons, and their classmates. Please avoid the use of cell phone for communication with teachers.

5. Take an active role in helping your children process and own their learning.

Your child is accustomed to interacting with their teachers and classmates throughout a school day. These times may be a difficult time for some. Be as available and attentive to their emotional needs as you can. Let them know you're there to talk through things with them. However, your child must own their work; do not complete their assignments for them, even when they are struggling.

Using a computer is new to over half of our student population and they will likely need your help. Be aware of what your child sees on the computer. Unwanted pop-ups can occur at any time. Talk to your child about what they should do when they see something they shouldn't see- Close the computer, and tell you right away. Avoid allowing random searches on search engines. Choose reputable sites!

6. Establish times for quiet and reflection

A huge challenge for families with multiple children will be how to manage all of their children's needs, especially when those children are of different ages and have different needs. There may be times when siblings need to work in separate rooms or parts of the house to avoid distractions. Parents may want to experiment with noise-canceling headphones to block out distractions.

7. Encourage physical activity and exercise

Our PE teachers, Coach Bunting and Coach Chong, and Swim teacher, Auntie Mikie, will meet with your child on Home Learning once a week, but that will not be adequate exercise for your child. Exercise is an excellent opportunity for you to go outside and take walks together or exercise together on your side/back yard! Being physically active is vitally important to their health and well-being, as well as to their learning.

8. Engage your child in the home

To keep them productive and contributing at home, please assign chores around the house and maybe teach them a new housekeeping skill. Create a small vegetable garden, organize the bookshelf or plan and cook a meal.

9. Monitor how much time your child is spending online

TCS honestly does not want your child to have 5-8 hours of screen time. Each student has a thoughtful, purposeful school schedule to minimize screen time and to engage with their teachers daily. We ask that parents remember that most of our teachers are not experts in online learning and that it will require some trial-and-error before we find the right balance between online videos and assignments. Your principals and Academic Dean will periodically check in with you to assess what you see at home and what we need to adjust. Thank you for your patience and partnership.

10. Social Interactions

Initially, there might be the excitement of school closure, but it will quickly fade when students begin to miss their classmates, friends, and teachers. Help your children maintain contact with friends. Our Microsoft Teams program is perfect for one-on-one chats and friend chats.

Please monitor your children's social media use, especially during extended school closure. Older students will rely more on social media to communicate with friends. Social media apps such as Snapchat, Instagram, What's App, or Facebook are not official, school-sanctioned channels of communication.

Trinity Christian School asks parents to monitor their children's use of social media. Remind your children to be polite, respectful, and appropriate in their communications and to represent their family, school, and our Lord in their interactions with others. The written word and tone can sometimes offend or cause misunderstandings.