

Wednesday, March 25, 2020

Dear Yinghua families,

These are difficult and stressful times. The pandemic has caused uncertainty in all walks of life, and the rapid pace of change is a huge challenge. We care deeply about the well-being of our students and families in this unprecedented time. Our first and highest priority is our student and family safety coupled with the goal of educating students in a productive way.

We erred on the side of including *everything we could think of* in the comprehensive distance learning plan we shared on March 23. In our letter, we did not adequately express our strong desire to accommodate differences and needs. We apologize for this.

A one-size-fits-all approach won't work for distance learning. Our goals are to sustain learning during the school closure, which is scheduled to run at least through April 30, and to make this a satisfying, enjoyable, and even *fun* experience for our students. **We trust you to make decisions based on what is realistic for your household, and make adjustments to fit your family, work, and many other responsibilities and priorities.**

Please join us in taking one day at a time. We propose these initial steps:

- **Try it:** At Yinghua, “always try” (不断努力) is a Dragon Code expectation. What we ask of families during this challenging time is to give the distance learning plan a try. If an entire day is way too much, how about one or two lessons per day? Try what works for you. “**Yinghua Distance Learning at A Glance**” includes steps to follow and is attached to this letter.
- **Test it:** Let's use the week of March 30 as a testing period. There will be kinks and challenges along the way, and we'll do our best to respond quickly.
- **Tell us:** We will reach out to you during the second week of distance learning to hear what's working and what needs adjustments. Give us feedback so that we can make informed changes.

Here is the first of what will likely be many changes. We will *not* have weekly exchanges of materials at school on Fridays as was proposed in Monday's letter. **Instead, please come once to Yinghua to pick up school supplies, books, and such on Thursday (3/26) from 12 to 5 p.m. or Friday (3/27) from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.** If this timing doesn't work for you, write to [Susan.Berg@yinghuaacademy.org](mailto:Susan.Berg@yinghuaacademy.org) to make other arrangements. If you drive to school, park on Fillmore Street NE. Send one person from the family to enter on the Door 14 side of the school. Items will be arranged by grade in the gym. Please follow the 6-foot social-distancing practice. Staff will be there to greet you and provide guidance.

In this time of unprecedented disruption and anxiety, we commit to meeting you and your family with compassion and understanding, and together we will navigate these uncharted waters.

Yours sincerely,

Sue Berg  
Executive Director

Luyi Lien  
Academic Director

Amanda Schneider  
School Board Chair

P.S. Remember, if your child needs a laptop or iPad, we will provide it. If you need to borrow technology but have not yet received an email about it from [Chemin.Chu@yinghuaacademy.org](mailto:Chemin.Chu@yinghuaacademy.org), reach out to him. And, free meals are available to all Minnesota children; find a [distribution site near you](#).

Attachment: Yinghua Distance Learning at A Glance

## Yinghua Distance Learning at A Glance

Wednesday, March 25, 2020

1. **Pick up your school supplies at Yinghua.** Thursday, March 26, 12:00-5:00 p.m., or Friday, March 27, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., pick up school supplies, books, loaned electronics, and other items at school. If you can't come during the scheduled times, contact [Susan.Berg@yinghuaacademy.org](mailto:Susan.Berg@yinghuaacademy.org). If you drive to school, park on Fillmore Street NE. Send one person from the family to **enter on the Door 14 side of the school**. Items will be arranged by grade in the gym. Please follow the 6-foot social-distancing practice. Staff will be there to greet you and provide guidance. We look forward to seeing you!
2. **Determine what will work for your family.** Take a look at the distance learning [schedule](#) and determine what will work best for your household given your family's unique circumstances including learning styles, a child's age, work schedules, and family priorities. Give it a try and see what works. We'll reach out to you for feedback.
3. **Distance learning starts Monday, March 30.** Yinghua distance learning starts Monday, March 30, at 8:15 a.m. for Middle School (5th-8th) and 8:25 a.m. for Lower School (kindergarten-4th). The governor has alerted us that distance learning will continue at least through April 30.
4. **Joining a class.** Students join Morning Meeting or the first class of the day by clicking the Zoom meeting link on the [schedule](#). In advance, you may wish to watch this fourteen-minute [video](#) about using Zoom. The schedule is the first link you'll find on the [Learning Resources](#) page.
5. **Monday through Thursday, versus Friday.** School runs from 8:15 (MS) or 8:25 (LS) through 3:30. Fridays are flexible days for orchestra, teacher office hours, and independent work. Attendance is taken Monday through Thursday.
6. **Phone conversations.** Educational Assistants will phone students twice per week for short Chinese language conversations. Reach out to [Luyi.Lien@yinghuaacademy.org](mailto:Luyi.Lien@yinghuaacademy.org) with questions or concerns about the calls which will last no more than ten minutes.
7. **Follow the class rules.** As much as possible, we invite students to stick to a daily schedule and be on time when entering a class. Just as at school, be respectful, and raise your hand to talk.
8. **Find all resources on the Yinghua website, [www.yinghuaacademy.org](http://www.yinghuaacademy.org).** Look for the [Learning Resources](#) link in the Current Families box at the right of the homepage, or find it under the Current Families pull-down menu. Teachers will show students how to find their learning materials and assignments.
9. **Accelerated Reader (AR) is now available from home.** This is new! Now, quizzes can be taken from home. The link is posted under Learning Resources. Contact [Phillip.Morris@yinghuaacademy.org](mailto:Phillip.Morris@yinghuaacademy.org) for assistance.
10. **Reminders:** If your child needs a laptop or iPad, we will provide it. If you need to borrow technology but have not yet received an email about it from [Chemin.Chu@yinghuaacademy.org](mailto:Chemin.Chu@yinghuaacademy.org), reach out to him. And, free meals are available to all Minnesota children; find a [distribution site near you](#). If you need help accessing nutritional resources, contact [Abigail.Pribbenow@yinghuaacademy.org](mailto:Abigail.Pribbenow@yinghuaacademy.org).