



## Parents,

Welcome to the new school year! This year will certainly look a little different, and we want to make sure you're prepared to help set up your child for success.

First, it's helpful to understand that remote learning will be a mix of **synchronous** and **asynchronous** instruction. What does that mean?

**Synchronous instruction** means the teacher is teaching to a group of students live. Synchronous learning occurs when teachers and students are working together at the same time.

What you need to know: Teachers won't be doing all the talking in a classroom, and synchronous learning does not mean your child will be sitting in front of an electronic screen all day. During synchronous learning, there may be times when students work in groups, pairs or work independently. Your child's teacher will be present the whole time during group or independent work, but please be mindful that, just like in a physical classroom, he or she may be "virtually" walking around the room to assist other students. Encourage your child to use the "raise your hand" feature if they need assistance.

**Asynchronous learning** is a general term used to describe forms of education, instruction, and learning that do not occur in the same place or at the same time. Asynchronous instruction can be in the form of pre-recorded webinars, discussion boards, assignments in Schoology, a paper and pencil assignment, videos to watch, or personalized learning. In other words, the instruction by the teacher and the learning by the student do not occur at the same time.

What you need to know: During asynchronous instruction, your child will be working on assignments that do not happen in the same place or at the same time. For example, your child may be given direction in their Schoology account to watch a video to prepare for an upcoming math class. Let's say you see the teacher assigned that for Tuesday, September 15. Students can watch that on their own time or during their asynchronous assigned time in the schedule.

Teachers are learners too! Delivering synchronous instruction from a virtual platform is new to many of our teachers, and we are learning lots every day. Please understand that we are still learning to manage some of the technology alongside delivering instruction virtually. Teachers will have to develop their own routines along with your child(ren). That's the true definition of life-long learner!

We encourage parents to be involved in their child's education, but please be considerate during class time. As much as we love our families, the classroom learning space should be for children with parents/guardians assisting when the child needs help with technology issues such as log-ins.

We know remote learning is going to be challenging! Teachers will provide many "brain breaks" throughout the day. We encourage students to stretch, take time to use the restroom, grab a healthy snack, do a short physical activity (jumping jacks, hop on one foot, skip, etc.). Bodies move minds! We'll need your help to make sure students come back to task in the virtual classroom so we can keep learning.

Thank you in advance for your patience, flexibility and understanding. Together, we'll make this year a success!

Sincerely,

**Your Erie's Public Schools Teachers**