



Re-Zooming School (Resuming 😊)
Returning to Virtual Learning: Let's Get Ready

The state of NC and most local school districts have made decisions about what learning will look for children this fall. Whether your district will do full remote learning or a hybrid school classroom option, both amount to virtual learning and there's no way around it. Take a deep breath.....you have experienced this already...AND, you've been your child's teacher for a lifetime! We're in this together and we will be supporting your family's efforts for successful virtual learning. Yes, we said "your family" because all hands will be needed on deck in order for this to work smoothly and effectively.

This month's tips will feature strategies, resources and encouragement for a successful school start. This week is all about thinking through what is needed for re-zooming (resuming) school 😊. Let's make the necessary adjustments for creating positive transition to the virtual learning environment for our kids. Tune in over the next month for weekly tips and live conversations...you won't want to miss any of it! And remember....Parents, Stay Positive!

-
- We're here, this is happening, PREPARE yourself for what's ahead
 - Wrap you mind around it and commit to the process of virtual learning
 - Think of and make necessary contacts to gain understanding of expectations for students and parents.
 - Teachers, childcare providers, counselors, and other support staff
 - Find out what steps need to be taken to prepare for the start of school (i.e. school enrollment, assessments, students' preparation, etc.)
 - Have conversations with your children about what to expect
 - When transitions will occur

- How you will work together
 - Your expectations, their expectations
- **Pump yourself up (you can do this, your child can do this, it will work out, etc.)**
 - Post encouragement cards/notes for yourself
 - Join a parent support group (education co-op)
 - Talk to friends and family – stay connected to positive people
- **Get balanced – Find the right balance between work, school, and home**
 - **Determine how much time will be required for live instruction for your child and how much time will be needed to support your child with independent learning.**
 - **Decide if you need to have a conversation with your employer about flexibility**
 - Be open to various options and accommodations (i.e. longer workdays to allow time to support your child or using leave balances/CARES Act support as needed if available)
 - **Have a plan for the school day and workday and build your schedule around it.**
 - For example, you may support your child from 7am-9am and plan to begin your work requirements at 9am-12pm then provide lunch and set your child up for independent time or live instruction, then continue your work through the end of the work day supporting your child as needed
 - **Make choices based on what works best for your family**
 - **Your situation may vary greatly but be flexible and allow grace**
 - **Use resources and your village to create balance with everything you are juggling (school, work, family, etc.)**
 - Determine how your village (family, friends or neighbors) may be able to support, as needed, with school time, down time during the day, grocery shopping and other errands (Make contact with them now to discuss opportunities)
 - Consider what extracurricular activities your child will participate in and how to safely coordinate responsibilities with other involved parents
 - Allow your children to support with household chores around the house as age appropriate
- **Normalize Virtual Learning (as much as possible)**
 - **Identify and define learning space**
 - Create a Back To School countdown board
 - If possible, don't allow your child/teenager's room to be their school space.

- Decorate the space – and use it for school/learning only
 - Name your learning zone (post it and refer to it)
- **Continue the traditions you previously had for “Back to School” and start new ones**
 - Create a “first day of school” countdown board
 - Plan for a first day of virtual learning outfit....take pictures....post them, if that is something you’d normally do for the first day of school
- **If you have a senior, make this year memorable from the beginning:**
 - Create senior year signs for the start of the year.
 - Create a memory book to fill up throughout the year.
 - Make a senior year promo/announcement for graduation. The idea is to make it a big deal!
- **Plan, Prepare & Purchase: Plan for the school year, prepare for the unexpected and purchase or pick up all supplies needed school**
 - **You will need to incorporate a balance of learning activities with planned fun activities and active time during the school year**
 - ✓ What do you and your child need to do be prepared for the school year?
 - ✓ For example, create a handwashing chart, daily routine charts, rewards charts etc.
 - ✓ Purchase or pickup school supplies: math manipulatives, crayons, paper, paint, beans, pencils, etc.
 - ✓ Plan for school time as well as fun time activities
 - Plan ahead for activities that require additional items, time, etc. (i.e. required technology needed for assignments and virtual lessons)
 - You will need to get back to the school schedule from last year and adjust as needed based on new information provided from the school district
 - Prepare charts and boards to keep organized (use pictures to help younger children understand)
- **Reflect on your previous at-home learning time with your children**
 - Plan for the upcoming year with that in mind to create a wonderful learning experience for you and your child
- **Plan to have check-in routines (particularly for middle/high schoolers)**
 - Encourage them to stay on track with their work and keep their commitments.
 - Have them limit distractions, turn off cell phones and video games, during instruction time
- **Be sure to learn the virtual platform (i.e. Canvas or Power School) your child will be using for school**

- How do you log on to the platform to check your child progress?
 - How will the school account for your child's attendance?
 - How do you see your child's current grades?
 - **Contact the school or teacher if you get stuck or need support (they are required to assist you with this)**
-

Below is a listing of local county school districts return to school plans based on the guidance provided by the NC Department of Public Instruction (DPI).

**For more information about each local county's school reopening plan [click here](#).*

***Please note that charter schools within each county may operate on their own individual reopening plan. Contact the school directly for more information.*

Schools Reopening Plans:

Plan A = Full in person return

Plan B = Hybrid School Classroom Environment (Face to Face and Remote)

Plan C = Full virtual learning

*****View the NC DPI [Lighting Our Way Forward](#), guidance on reopening K-12 public schools summary for further details on what each plan entails.**

Alexander - Plan B

Burke – Plan C

Cabarrus – Plan C

Caldwell – Plan B

Catawba - Plan C

Cleveland – Plan B

Gaston – Plan B

Iredell/Statesville - Plan B

Lincoln – Plan B

Mecklenburg - Plan C

Stanly – Plan B

Rowan/Salisbury - Plan B

Union – Plan B

www.triplep-parenting.com