

Grades 6-8 Extended Learning Suggestions

In response to the extended closure, Curriculum Coordinators and the Office of Teaching and Learning have thoughtfully curated creative and engaging learning experiences for students in grades six through eight. Most of these opportunities can be implemented at home using everyday items and do not require any specific training or background knowledge. The attached document serves the following purposes:

- ★ Create a sense of normalcy for students
- ★ Provide practice to maintain current skills
- ★ Engage students during their time away from their school
- ★ Continue to apply learning in a different setting



This is **not** continued instruction, though we want to keep students engaged and learning. Student work will not be collected nor will it be graded. Over the coming weeks, the district will continue to provide updates and additional learning opportunities for our students.

Daily Routines for Grades 6-8

- ★ Read! Consider different genres. Make sure you think about nonfiction and poetry too!
- ★ Write! Write about what you are reading. Comment on character, theme, author's craft, etc.
- ★ Move! Make sure you move your body today!
- ★ Practice! Your instrument each day! (Remember, your voice is an instrument!)
- ★ Check! How are you feeling today? What do you need? Who can help?



Optional Sample Schedule: 6-8

A possible way to structure the day, if needed

Before 9:00	Wake Up	Eat breakfast, make your bed, get dressed, check your Mood Meter
9:00-9:45	Morning Movement	Walk, get your body moving! You may want to choose something from the Move page .
9:45-10:00	Break	
10:00-11:00	Creative Learning Time	Choose something from the Practice, Explore, or Create pages
11:00-11:15	Movement Break	Get that body moving! Check the Move page for ideas
11:15-12:15	Creative Learning Time	Choose something from the Practice, Explore, or Create pages
12:15-1:00	Lunch and Movement Time	
1:00-2:00	Daily Routine: Read and Write	Share your reading and/or writing with someone in your home
2:00-2:30	Reflect	Choose something from the Reflect page Check your Mood Meter at the end of the day.

Reflect- *think carefully about something and record it in a journal*

Outside Your Window	Within Your Walls	Puzzles and Games	Using Your Senses	Imagining New Worlds	Choose Your Own Topic
<p>Now that you're socially distancing, what and who do you miss the most? How might you make sure you can do those things and connect with those people when things return to normal?</p> <p>How can you still connect with people and parts of your community that are outside your window, while still socially distancing?</p> <p>Keep track of books that you read that you want to recommend to your friends. Write one friend a note explaining why you think they should read a particular book. Save the note for when you see your friend again or send it digitally!</p>	<p>Start a "Gratitude Journal" Pick 3 things you are grateful for in your life and write about them. If you include people, consider writing directly to them as well.</p> <p>As you spend more time in your home, how do your feelings change? What can you do to make sure you stay active and interested in things?</p> <p>Name a way you've supported someone recently. How did that help the person, and what are some other ways you can support those in your home, or others from afar?</p> <p>What ways have you used mathematics in everyday tasks today? This week?</p>	<p>What makes a game fair or unfair? What rules could you add, remove, or change to a game in order to make it better?</p> <p>What makes a puzzle challenging for you? Which types of puzzles are easier or harder for you? (Words, math, spacial, etc...)</p> <p>Look back over all the books you read this year. What patterns do you see? Write titles on index cards or pieces of paper and create matches. Think about how those titles are related. Make many connections. Snap a photo or write down the matches to compare with friends and teachers when things return to normal.</p>	<p>Reflect on important memories. Record the different senses you can remember from those memories. What can you taste, touch, smell, hear, or see? Which senses are the strongest? Does it change for older or newer memories?</p> <p>Are there smells or sounds that relax you or make you anxious? Why do you think they have that effect on you?</p>	<p>Write a letter to your future self. Think about some time after this situation has passed. What do you want your future self to learn about this experience to apply in the future world? What are you learning about yourself and your community that your future self should know?</p> <p>Based on what you know about this world, what could we all do better in the future? Think locally and globally. Try to be specific.</p> <p>Compare and contrast how the U.S. and another country are responding to COVID-19. What cultural practices might make these responses different?</p> <p>What do mathematicians do?</p>	

Move- *put your body in motion and practice mindfulness*

Outside Your Window	Within Your Walls	Puzzles and Games	Using Your Senses	Imagining New Worlds	Choose Your Own Topic
<p>Count out some jumping jacks, or other exercises, using your World Language. How high can you count?</p> <p>Explore some new yoga and mindfulness practices. Decide which ones you could use daily and which ones you could combine to make a 30 minute session that you will do twice a week.</p> <p>Outside time- chart out a walk, jog, scooter or bike ride. How far will you go? How long will it take? How will you track your distance? How can you build on your mileage?</p> <p>Take a walk and notice patterns. Keep a journal or a photo diary.</p>	<p>Equipment free workout- Complete 3 Rounds: 10 Mountain Climbers 10 Jump Squats 10 Push Ups 20-30 seconds plank. 30 Second Wall Sit</p> <p>How can you modify the workout above from day to day so you don't get bored?</p> <p>Do you have anything in your home that could be used as equipment? A full water bottle? A bag full of books or cans?</p>	<p>"Who is the best trainer game"- Design three sets of 15 minute work-outs. Do them yourself and share with your friends. Vote to see who made the best workout and why. Consider: -Strength -Flexibility -Cardiovascular -Creativity</p>	<p>"Mini"-4-7-8 Great for lessening anxiety as it helps lengthen the exhale. Begin by exhaling the air gently out of your lungs. Inhale 1-2-3-4 Hold your breath 1-2-3-4-5-6-7 Exhale 1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8</p> <p>Do a body scan. Take 2-3 minutes to sit or lie still, close your eyes, and mentally check in with each part of your body. Start at either your head or feet and go step by step up or down. How does each part feel? Can you notice your body even when your eyes are closed? What does it feel like?</p>	<p>Using your knowledge of physical exercise and the human body, try and design new exercises that could be completed in a different world where rules like gravity might be different. Try out the exercises.</p> <p>An explorer wouldn't have access to a gym. What could they do in order to stay in shape and healthy. Can you do that too?</p>	

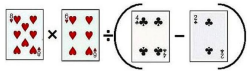
Create- *make or produce something by using your imagination*

Outside Your Window	Within Your Walls	Puzzles and Games	Using Your Senses	Imagining New Worlds	Choose Your Own Topic
<p>Record the people, vehicles, or other items that you can see from your home. Collect data about patterns. How do the numbers change? Create a graph, chart, or other visual representation of these patterns.</p> <p>Draw and sketch things that you can see from your windows. Consider different times of day and different angles from the same window. What details help a viewer understand the time of day/ weather. Use different materials to make the sketches..</p> <p>Write some of your own nature-inspired poetry.</p> <p>Sidewalk math - write math problems drawn in chalk for someone to ponder as they walk outside.</p>	<p>In French, Spanish, or Madarin, create a schedule for your ideal day. How would you most like to spend a day out of school? How does what you have planned reflect your personality?</p> <p>Make math art on your own, or try one of these: Daily Desmos, Loop-de-loops, Dragon Curve</p> <p>Set up a still life of objects from your home. Make contour drawings using both hands without lifting the pencil off the paper. Draw only what you see, not what you know or remember.</p>	<p>Pick a science topic. Create a game to teach others about the topic. Make it fair and fun.</p> <p>Make a marble run with cardboard tubes, cups, recyclables, and household materials.</p> <p>Create a diamante poem about yourself using your World Language and this generator.</p> <p>Create a math game that you can share when you return to school. Include the directions.</p> <p>Make your own <i>Mad Libs</i> asking participants to add in missing words and phrases.</p> <p>Use common objects/numbers /shapes/ operations to Create "Which One Doesn't Belong" challenges Themes: Gr 6 Ratios, Fractions Gr 7 integer operations, Fractions, Polygons, Angles Gr 8 Transformations, Dilations, Volume</p>	<p>Think about a favorite place you have been to. What did you see, hear, smell, taste, feel? Capture these senses in writing, painting or drawing!</p> <p>Practice ways to write powerful imagery using different senses. Can you write so clearly that someone can see what you see; taste what you taste, hear what you hear?</p> <p>Make activist art: Pick an issue you care about and make a poster arguing for your cause.</p>	<p>Create an imaginary ecosystem. What producers, consumers, and decomposers will live there? What abiotic factors will you need? Create a model of the ecosystem.</p> <p>Consider an ideal community. What sorts of systems, and organizations would you need to keep society working and keep people safe?</p> <p>Use your narrative skills to write the setting for a story that takes place in another world. If you're feeling inspired, write out the whole story and include illustrations!</p>	

Explore- *investigate, study, or look into something to learn more about it*

Outside Your Window	Within Your Walls	Puzzles and Games	Using Your Senses	Imagining New Worlds	Choose Your Own Topic
<p>Observe the moon each day and draw what you see. Predict what the moon will look like the next day. Are your predictions more or less accurate as time passes? Create a model to explain why the moon appears to change. Use your model to see if you can explain why we have solar and lunar eclipses.</p> <p>Use the outdoors as an inspiration for reading and writing. What can you see from your window that you didn't really notice before?</p> <p>What do we lose by spending this much time inside and away from others? Write or draw about it.</p>	<p>Investigate a variety of ways to set up your living space and how you get ready in the morning. Try different arrangements and track how long it takes you to get ready. Use a table and graph to record and analyze your data and write a claim based on evidence about how best to arrange your living space.</p> <p>Sketch the people and animals interacting within your home. Tell a story of how they communicate. How does it change over time?</p> <p>Pick a person in any field whose work you like and investigate how that person came to be successful.</p> <p>What do we gain by spending this much time inside and away from others?</p>	<p>What makes a game fair or unfair? What strategy is involved? What rules could you add, remove, or change to a game in order to make it better?</p> <p>Explore games in your house, or on the sites listed. What is the math in the game? Can you make your own version of the game? How can you use forces or energy in your game? Can you make something move or light up?</p> <p>Try some puzzles at http://solveme.edc.org/ then create one of your own.</p>	<p>Design an experiment to see if color or scent affect memory. Use what you learn from your experiment to design a good way to study your science vocabulary.</p> <p>Investigate recipes from the cultures of your Spanish, French, or Chinese class. Create a shopping list in the target language and make the dish if you can.</p> <p>Research art from a target language country. Pick a piece of art and draw or make your own version of it.</p> <p>Listen to many types of music. Try and find genres you don't normally listen to. Are there particular sounds that you prefer? Why?</p>	<p>Research a career that uses math. Find the starting salary, average salary, relevant math topics and how often they use math. How does this compare with careers that don't require math as much?</p> <p>Research the benefits of being bilingual. Create your own infographic to summarize what you've learned.</p> <p>Build structures, vehicles, abstract sculptures using as little tape and glue as possible. Test that they are structurally sound and can stand without unconnected supports.</p> <p>Compare Mathematical Notations between US and latin American countries</p>	

Practice- *review something you have learned before*

Outside Your Window	Within Your Walls	Puzzles and Games	Using Your Senses	Imagining New Worlds	Choose Your Own Topic
<p>Take a walk outside and make a journal of all the things you see in nature using drawings and words. Where do you see beauty in nature?"</p> <p>Practice your math skills! Plan a dream vacation to a place you have always wanted to visit. You will need to determine a budget around travel, hotel stay, food, gas prices, air fares etc. How much money will you need for your trip? Make sure you can prove it!</p>	<p>Practice drawing from memory, imagination and observation.</p> <p>What visual patterns can you find? Look at these examples. What equation matches each pattern? Make one of your own.</p> <p>Look at several recipes (on-line, from books). What ratios are used for certain types of items? Breads? Cakes? Soups? What do you notice? Wonder?</p> <p>Look back over the writing you have done this year. Choose one piece and revise it using the tools and skills you have gained this year.</p>	<p>Practice a set of vocabulary and sentence chunks you already have from your World Language Class.</p> <p>Pictionary with your family</p> <p>Use order of operations to get to 24. Each player is dealt four cards. Each player uses the rule of order of operations to make a number as close to 24 as possible. Sample:</p> 	<p>Write about what you are reading. How do different writers describe senses? Are there some senses that aren't written about as often? Do some writers focus on certain senses?</p> <p>In Spanish, Mandarin or French, write as many sentences as you can about what you are seeing, doing, hearing, tasting during this time away from school.</p>	<p>Make lists about all the things that are true about this world, that might not be true in another world (real or fictional). Which ones are probably true no matter where you are?</p>	

Literacy Resources

[Poetry Foundation](#): Read and listen to a vast collection of poetry.

[Teen Ink](#): Writings for teens, by teens.

Science Resources

[Science Snacks](#) from the Exploratorium.

[Learn Computer Science](#): Activities from Code.org

Math Resources

[Estimation180.com](#): Improve both number sense and problem solving skills

[Math Before Bed](#): Prompts that can inspire mathematical discussions

[OpenMiddle](#): Choose challenging problems with multiple ways solve

[Illuminations](#): Interactive games and puzzles.

World Language Resources

[MisCositas Channel](#): Music and cultural videos in Spanish, French, and Mandarin.

[Spanish Playground](#): Songs and stories for novice and intermediate learners.

[Growing Up with Chinese](#): Video lessons.

[Short Stories in French](#): for beginners.

Wellness Resources

[GoNoodle](#): Get kids moving. No need to create an account.

[Create an Active Home](#)

[Yoga with Adriene](#): Yoga video series

[Mind and Body Calendar](#): Activities for every day of the month

Art Resources

[How to Make a FlipBook](#)

[33 Drawing Prompts](#)

[12 World-Class Museums You Can Visit Online](#)

Social Studies Resources

[Newsela](#): High interest articles with adjustable reading levels.

Music Resources

[ChordChord](#): Create your own chord progressions.

[Chrome Music Lab](#): Musical adventures and exploration.

General Resources

[PBS LearningMedia](#) offers a variety of [interactive lessons](#) for grades K-12. Each self-paced lesson features several engagement and assessment activities.

[View grades 6-8 Interactive Lessons](#)

Note that these represent just SOME of the interactive lessons on [PBS LearningMedia](#). You can find more by searching for your subject of choice, then using the filter tool on the left to select "Interactive Lesson."

Please note that with an account student work can be saved. PBS does not sign student data privacy agreements with school districts and therefore the Public Schools of Brookline do not have a privacy agreement in place with PBS. Parents should look at the site's privacy policy to ensure that you are comfortable with PBS use of data.

[How to Talk to Children about Difficult News](#): from The American Psychological Association

[Talking to Tweens and Teens about Coronavirus](#): from the New York Times.

[CommonSense Media](#): Tips on Parenting and media can be found at.

[Time Magazine](#): Ideas for keeping kids happy, busy, and learning.

[PSBMA.org Library site](#) (*password: psbma*). Brookline School libraries provides students access to ebooks, encyclopedias and more.

[NNELL Parent Resources](#): Resources by the National Network for Early Language Learning

[Brookline Booksmith](#) is closed but offers free shipping on all online purchases.

Digital Resources and Data Privacy:

During this unprecedented time of school closures, many vendors of educational technology products are offering their services for free. We urge you to use caution when signing up for new services and ensure that the vendor's privacy practices are clear. The Public Schools of Brookline have worked hard to obtain agreements with vendors of services used by our students. The agreements ensure that any Ed Tech that requires students accounts have data privacy policies that meet our standards.

Websites that don't require students accounts, and thus do not collect student data, can be used without concern.