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# NEW COVENANT ACADEMY DISTANCE LEARNING FAQs

## ***When does distance learning officially begin?***

Wednesday, March 18.

## ***Is distance learning homeschooling?***

No. Distance learning is a format of delivering education through online means, email, packets, etc. All the instruction, assignments, and assessments are done by NCA teachers.

## ***What should parents do for distance learning?***

Provide a location and time for your child(ren) to work. One of the reasons why we are engaging in distance learning is provide a sense of normalcy through routine. You may need to answer easy questions or offer assistance just like with homework. The work assigned is developed with the understanding that kids will work independently.

## ***What do I do if my child doesn't understand something?***

Contact your child's teacher.

## ***How do I contact my child's teacher?***

Jupiter, email\*, or text. If that doesn't work, contact the office ([kimr@ncalions.org](mailto:kimr@ncalions.org) or 570.662.2996).  
(\* email addresses are firstnamelastinitial@ncalions.org – for example, john smith = johns@ncalions)

## ***When will regular school start again?***

Sadly, we do not know. We are following the CDC, federal government, and PA state officials for direction.

## ***How will assignments be graded?***

Most assessments will be formative, meaning they are used to determine the understanding of each student. NCA teachers are extremely flexible and accommodating during this time. Students should continue to do their best to understand and to do the work assigned.

## ***Why are we having distance learning if the state has said we can get a waiver for the 180-day rule of school days?***

There are four quick responses as to why NCA is engaging in distance learning:

- Education is far too important to put on hold if we can help it. We have the capacity to give our students an educational experience to engage their minds and keep them actively learning.
- The state has said the closure is for a minimum of two weeks, but we don't know if they will extend it or not. It could end up being much longer, so we are preparing for multiple scenarios. The CDC is indicating a longer time frame. By starting distance learning now, we will be prepared for more and actually be ahead of the curve.
- We also want to keep up as much normalcy as possible. In times of stress or crisis, staying in a routine is helpful and healthy. Boredom can easily turn into fear and anxiety. By offering meaningful school work, students, and by extension their families, can maintain a sense of normalcy.
- Just because the governor is allowing schools to request a waiver to have less than 180 days of school does not mean that we should cancel education altogether. We appreciate that the pressure to complete a typical school year has been lessened, but our students still need to grow and complete their education each year.