



Responding to Students with C.A.R.E.

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Who's Your Presenter?

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Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind



- Campus Programs
 - 3 Campuses: Ogden, Salt Lake City, Springville
 - New online school (USD Online) started last fall
 - Serve between 50-120 students on each campus
 - Preschool through Post-High School
 - All students have an IEP or 504 plan.
- Statewide Outreach
 - Service to all but the largest school districts in the state
 - Birth to Age 22
 - Serve approximately 4,000 students a year





USDB's Fall 2020 Plan



- 5 Days a Week In-Person for Kinder through HS
 - 4 Days a Week In-Person for Pre-K with Zoom parent meetings on Fridays
- Online & Hybrid Options for Families
- Teachers use Parallel Teaching for in-person and online



Parallel Teaching



- Teachers do both online and in-person teaching
- Online students join for key portions of lessons by Zoom
- Assignments and videos put on learning platforms for both online and in-person students to use
 - We use SeeSaw for Pre-K to 3rd and Canvas for 4th to HS
- Assigned a few aides to check in with students and families several times per week

Current Numbers at JMS (Salt Lake City)



Total Students: 115

- In-Person: 98
- Online: 17

Total Faculty: 23

- Pre-K: 2
- Elementary (Classroom & Resource): 8
- Secondary (Classroom & Resource): 9
- Specialists: 4





What We Learned Last Spring



- Students are more capable and resilient than we give them credit.
- Isolation is tough on students - especially special education students and Deaf students
- Students are more digitally ready for learning than we ever gave credit - and that includes preschool!
- We have to be more individually aware of students and how they learn - one-size-fits-all does not work in a pandemic.

“School is a verb,
not a noun.”

-Jeanna Chiodo, Teacher of the Deaf



Responding with C.A.R.E.



We need to support students and staff in this very unique and possibly difficult year with C.A.R.E.:

- Creativity
- Adaptability
- Routine
- Empathy



Creativity

This year is unlike any other. We are asking teachers to:

- Teach in-person and online at the same time
- Teach with safety practices

We are asking students to:

- Use digital tools at earlier ages and more completely than ever before
- Be ready to change the format at any moment

This requires a creativity in approach and our willingness to be more flexible, innovative, and willing to try new ideas than ever!

“Creativity” Ideas

- Say “yes” more often to teachers’ crazy ideas
- Take advantage of all the “free” apps/programs during COVID
- Use more games and projects - more fun means more engagement at a distance
- Using non-traditional areas for teaching spaces

Ideas from JMS:

- English teachers partnering together on instruction.
- “Gamification” for math and “mastery paths” in science.



Adaptability



We have to be ready to make changes overnight. We never know when a positive test will happen, when the state will change expectations, or when an earthquake will hit!

We need to be willing and able to adapt and change as we go and not hold on to old ways of teaching/learning or new approaches that don't work.

“Adaptability” Ideas

- Change up how we do schedules
- Get creative in giving teachers more prep time
- Focus on student needs rather than “it’s how we do things”
- Make short recordings - think “Tik Tok” and not “Netflix”
- Be flexible with time - online assignments go faster but also take longer because of interruptions at home.

Ideas from JMS:

- Teachers are using online platforms but we aren’t dictating how things look - just that the accessibility and quality is there.
- Students are being given more control over pacing of their learning.



Routine



All students, but especially special education students, need to have the stability of the school day, their teacher, and how to do their homework.

Now, more than ever, schools need to be the safe place for students - especially given the fear of COVID-19 and the political and natural disaster landscape we face.

“Routine” Ideas

- Practice online skills now - before a quarantine.
- Have set expectations for online learning for staff, parents, and students.
- Have assignments look similar in-person and online.
- Use online textbook editions with physical textbooks.

Ideas from JMS:

- Students login to digital tools everyday, even if in-person.
- Using zoom-based warmups for ALL students so everyone connects together each day.



Empathy



Trauma doesn't disappear by ignoring it. Students have faced sickness, parent job loss, eviction, sudden switch to online learning, new ways of learning, and teachers who are just as scared as they are.

For special education students, such as Deaf students, they've also suffered isolation and, possibly, academic deprivation.

More than ever, schools need to be the human heart of our communities and rally around students, especially those who have had it the hardest.

“Empathy” Ideas

- Get to know family circumstances - internet access, number of students in the home, can parents support, etc.
- Find times/ways for students to have their comfort/bio needs met within COVID guidelines (such as mask breaks).
- Don't let our COVID frustrations/worries be taken out on students.

Ideas from JMS:

- Adding Social-Emotional Learning across all grades to support students.
- Using competency-based approaches for assignments so students can do/redo their work around family needs.



Summing Up



- This is the weirdest year of school we've experienced.
- Students and teachers are feeling nervous and overwhelmed.
- Special education students have the potential to suffer with the craziness of COVID.
- We must respond with C.A.R.E. - creativity, adaptability, routines, and empathy.



If You Want to Connect



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