

# Regional School District #10

Serving the Towns of Harwinton and Burlington

HOWARD J. THIERY  
Superintendent of Schools



VONETTA ROMEO-RIVERS  
Director of Teaching and Learning

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To: Region 10 Community Members  
From: Vonetta Romeo-Rivers, Director of Teaching and Learning

Date: March 17, 2020

Re: Supplemental eLearning Resources for Students

Region 10 Community Members,

Let me first begin by expressing my thanks for the overwhelming support you've shown our school community as we all navigate these uncertain times. We've modeled for our students what it means to be "a village" and for that, on behalf of the RSD 10 educators, I send our gratitude.

Please join us in seeing this unprecedented state-wide closure as an opportunity to engage with our children in a different way. Included in this communication is the link to a curated list of supplemental resources that students can access during this initial time away from school. Our teachers, coordinators, administrators, media specialists and instructional technology staff are consummate professionals and have worked with me in the last few days to create robust offerings of supplemental resources for students K – 12. As Superintendent Thiery shared in his communication yesterday, these resources are meant to keep our students engaged in learning as we develop a longer-term "teacher-directed distance learning plan."

**Please find the link, entitled Supplemental eLearning Resources For Students on the main page of our district website: <http://www.region10ct.org>**

I wear two hats as I write to you today – both as an educator and as a parent. Children are multidimensional people, just like adults, and while our priority is the physical health and safety of our community as we all grapple with COVID-19, we also recognize that our children's academic health is contingent upon their social and emotional health during this high stress time. Here are a few considerations for you as we face our new reality:

- Provide choice in how students tap into the resources we've provided – we have multiple offerings in each content area and lots of really engaging content and formats (podcasts, virtual museum tours, Science videos, fiction and non-fiction online libraries, etc.)
- Create some type of structure for learning that works best for your family: maybe there are blocks of time during the day that are learning blocks. Perhaps you set up mornings or afternoons for online access. There can be alternating Humanities and STEM days with movement and outdoor breaks every day. Provide movement and brain breaks between academic sessions – dancing, jumping jacks, jump rope, old-school running around the yard. No matter what type of schedule you choose, and no matter how they protest, our children thrive with some form of structure.

- Opportunities to express their creativity through art projects, practicing their instruments, cooking. Every child is an artist.
- This is an opportunity for us all to connect as families. A very good friend of mine calls this “forced family fun”: Scrabble, chess, eye-spy, Monopoly, family movie night, family exercise and projects, family book club, yoga and meditation, cooking together.

A reminder that low- or no-cost internet service has been offered by our local providers. We have links to additional information about those options for families on our main district website page under “COVID-19 Information”.

Parents and guardians – take care of yourselves. Make space for all that you are feeling and experiencing as our state has enacted social distancing protocols. Find ways to nurture yourselves so that you are able to nurture your family during these times. As things evolve, we will continue to communicate with you as we have these past weeks. Thank you in advance for staying engaged and partnering with us as we all navigate our shared circumstances.

Be Well,

Vonetta

Vonetta Romeo-Rivers  
Director of Teaching and Learning  
Regional School District 10