remote learning tips for parents

1. Set (and keep) a schedule
   The closer this is to a ‘school schedule, the easier it will likely be on everyone.

2. Create a daily plan
   A daily plan looks at the schedule and then identifies to-do items for that day and combines the two for a specific plan for that specific day.

3. Provide an environment conducive to learning
   This is even more challenging when everyone is home and the house is full. Too isolated and it’s difficult to check in, too ‘public’ of a space at home and they may be distracted. Try to find the middle ground that works for you.

4. Organize their learning environment
   Help them organize their learning environments (both physical and digital). Keeping supplies, passwords, textbooks, etc. organized allows kids to complete what they need to without the added stress of frantic searching in the moment.

5. Have any materials necessary for assignments
   Pencil, paper, a stable WiFi connection, log-in information for all accounts, etc. – Whatever they need to get the work done.

6. Don’t teach – Help them understand
   What if a child was so confused about what they are taught that he/she didn’t know what questions to ask? You as the parent can help – explain what is being asked, find out where they are stuck, and help them understand what is being asked. Sometimes we have to find another way to explain it in order to make some headway.

7. Make sure all work is completed
   And any work that remains incomplete is incomplete for a good reason and has a time-bound, actionable next-step (e.g., email the teacher asking for clarification on step 3 of the activity so that you can turn it in tomorrow by noon).

8. Help them check messages and communicate with school
   Communication is key — Check for messages daily from teachers and other students and make sure to reply to any messages that require one.

9. Use school resources
   Contact your child’s school, as well as the local school district and state education resources for support. This is especially critical if your child has an IEP or 504 plan and requires additional support and services at school.

10. Encourage a growth mindset
    This isn’t about what to learn or how to learn but rather how to think about what they’re learning.

11. Encourage self-direction and find their own motivation
    The more kids own their learning – and ideally have voice and choice in their work – the easier and more fulfilling everything will be for everyone. The idea here is to help them ‘want to’ learn. Take a moment to find what works for your child.
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Dear Editor

Articles, classified ads and written submissions for the Penncross Knolls Views newsletter are to be submitted to Jan Foster by the 15th day of February, April, June, August, October and December.

The Penncross Knoll Views newsletter is a bi-monthly publication for the homeowners. Newsletters are mailed to residents in January, March, May, July, September and November.

Classified ads are free to all Penncross Knoll residents. A classified ad is something to sell, looking for something to buy, lost items, found items, or in need of childcare, etc.

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Vote-By-Mail Ballot Boxes In Will County Starting September 24

Eight drop boxes will be placed across Will County so that voters in Will County may deposit their completed Vote By Mail envelopes. All drop boxes will be in their locations starting on September 24, which is the first day ballots can be mailed to voters by the Will County Clerk and will remain through Election Day. Drop boxes will be placed at:

- The Will County Clerk’s Office, 302 N. Chicago St., in downtown Joliet.
- Fountaindale Public Library, 300 W. Briarcliff Road, Bolingbrook - Open Mon-Thurs 9 am to 9 pm; Fri-Sat 9 am to 6 pm; Sun noon to 6 pm.
- Naperville 95th Street Library, 3015 Cedar Glade Dr., Naperville - Open Mon-Fri 9 am - 9 pm; Sat 9 am - 5 pm; Sun noon-9 pm.
- Plainfield Public Library, 15025 S. Illinois St., Plainfield - Open Mon-Thurs 10 am to 6 pm; Fri - Sat 10 am to 3 pm.
- White Oak Library, 121 E. Eighth St., Lockport - Open Mon-Thurs 10 am to 8:30 pm; Fri-Sat 10 am to 5pm; Sun 1 to 5 pm.
- Wilmington Public Library, 201 S. Kankakee St., Wilmington - Open Mon-Sat 9 am to 5 pm; Sun noon to 5 pm.
- Frankfort Public Library, 21119 S. Pfeiffer Road, Frankfort - Open Mon-Thurs 9 am to 9 pm; Fri-Sat 9 am to 5 pm.
- Governor State University, 1 University Parkway, University Park - Open Mon-Fri 6 am to 10:30 pm; Sat 7 am to 6 pm, Sun noon to 9 pm.

The newly-purchased white metal boxes will be clearly marked for voters. The boxes will be emptied on a daily basis by trained election representatives. All ballots will be immediately transported to the Will County Clerk’s Office.

Voters should follow instructions on their Vote By Mail packet closely before depositing ballots in a drop box. They should seal their completed ballots inside the provided Ballot Envelope. After signing the Ballot Envelope, they should seal it inside the provided Return Envelope as if they were planning to mail it.

Voters should not attempt to leave their Vote By Mail ballots with elections officials at our Early Voting locations. Nor should they attempt to leave them with Election Judges on Election Day. They must be placed in a drop box.

For more information on Vote By Mail, including how to fill out and submit an application for a Vote By Mail Ballot, visit the Will County Clerk’s Office online at the willcountyclerk.com.
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Seller’s Market is on FIRE!
The housing market continues to be on fire for sellers! Because of Covid-19, the beginning of the school year is not drawing a line in the sand for a slowdown in the housing market this year. There is no slowdown in sight! Every week since the last week in June, homes going under contract have exceeded 2019’s numbers by a 50% increase! Simply Amazing. Weekend of 7/27, our Northern Illinois MLS had a whopping 67% increase! Woo hoo! Get that house on the market!

For the last 7 weeks, week ending 8/10, the number of new listings is dead even with 2019. If no increase in new listings, but 60% increase of homes selling - we are experiencing a huge shortage of inventory creating a utopia for seller’s listing their homes! An updated home, priced right will fly off the shelf, often in multiple offers. List your home yesterday! There might not be a better market for sellers for a long time.

On the flip side, buyers are going crazy trying to buy with these ridiculously, historically low interest rates. Even though they may be paying over list price in a multiple offer, they are saving big bucks! Contact your local savvy real estate agent to strategize how to win that home in a multiple offer!

Penny O’Brien
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