

# HILL SCHOOL

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## Hill School Remote Learning

HILL SCHOOL · TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 2020 ·

Dear Hill School Parents,

Due to COVID-19, people working from home while children attend remote learning is leading to an increased demand for bandwidth. In reality, not every home is set up to double as a workplace. Internet services typically require minimum connection requirements. Microsoft Teams, for instance, requires a connection of 1.2Mbps to ensure optimum video and voice performance. Once you add in parent work meetings, siblings' remote classes, or your youngest streaming Frozen 2 on Disney+, it's no longer about quality, but whether you'll be able to talk to your bosses, coworkers, and teachers.

If your family is experiencing issues with reliable connectivity for all your family members, here are some tips and tricks you can do that might improve your home service:

### **Work As Close to Your Router As Possible**

The closer you are to your router, the better the signal will be.

### **Reboot Your Router**

If you can't remember the last time you restarted your home WIFI router, now is the time to do so. A simple reboot can often improve the signal of your home system.

### **Turn Off "Smart Devices" That You Are Not Using.**

These days all of your "smart devices" access your WIFI signal at all times. These include TVs, Gaming Systems, Digital Assistants (Amazon Echo, Google Home, etc.). Keeping these off when possible will improve overall WIFI performance.

### **Make Sure Your Router is Located in a Good Location**

Not all places are equally suitable for your router. Avoid placing your router close to metal

objects and appliances that emit electromagnetic waves. Metal is the top disrupter of a WiFi signal, and its presence close to a WiFi router can easily create a large dead zone.

Strictly speaking, all household appliances emit electromagnetic waves to some degree, even fluorescent lightbulbs, circuit breakers, and electric razors. The biggest emitters of electromagnetic waves are typically in the kitchen, and they include stoves, microwave ovens, and dishwashers.

Other problematic appliances are washing machines, tumble dryers, televisions, cordless phones, and radiant heaters. If you have any of these appliances at home, keep your WiFi router as far away from them as possible.

You can also reach out to your cell phone provider. Many cell providers are allowing phones to be used as a hotspot and removing some data restrictions during the closures. Please check for specifics with your carrier, as offers may vary and could change.

Our teachers are recording their classes, and they will be happy to review any questions or material that may need clarification during their office hours. Each teacher has time in the afternoon dedicated to answering any specific questions your child may have. If you are unsure of their office hours, please contact the teacher directly. Be assured that we are here for support; encourage your child to reach out as needed.

Please let us know if you have further questions.

Thank you,

Phillip Howley