



# Top 10 Tips and Tricks

Remote Learning Strategies from Our Extraordinary Educators

## 1 Set reasonable expectations.

Implement a weekly agenda and create a routine for your students (and guardians!) so that they know what to expect each week. Guardians will need to understand what is expected of their students while also working around busy schedules. Knowing what's coming for the week ahead and understanding the routine will help get everyone on the same page.

## 2 Commit to learning how to use technology effectively.

Leveraging the many virtual tools available for teachers on most platforms will make your classroom lessons easily adaptable to virtual learning. These will keep students engaged and assist in illustrating concepts. Virtual manipulatives for the mathematics classroom and drawing tools where you can illustrate for your students are favorites!

## 3 Make resources accessible.

Consider creating a classroom website where students and guardians can easily access the tools and resources that will be used in class. This is a great way to keep everything organized in one place. Google Sites™ is a great tool for creating sites and for organizing activities so you don't have to toggle between platforms.

## 4 Get creative about student communication.

Use modern communication tools like GIFs and emojis to illustrate what you want to share, considering so much previously in-person communication now relies on text. Students will respond positively when you speak "their language."

## 5 Record, record, record.

Have alternate ways for students to receive lessons and information. Recording a morning video to introduce students to their work for the day will ensure that they get the information even if you are unavailable or unable to connect during opening sessions or office hours. Additionally, consider recording sample answers and assignment strategies for students to reference for additional support.

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## 6 Give students an opportunity to reflect.

Create a weekly reflection sheet for students to complete in class to give them the opportunity to share their struggles, successes, goals, and what they are working on at home. This allows for students to become part of the process—and for you to learn what's working and what may need to be improved.

## 7 Highlight student successes.

Connecting with students and guardians regarding what they are doing well is a great motivator. Seeing their classmates succeed will motivate other students as well! Consider holding a weekly drawing for students who completed an assignment on time. Prizes can be small, like a book or a \$5 gift card.

## 8 Communication is key.

Pick up the phone and call guardians to explain instructions for virtual learning. Ask them to meet virtually "face to face" to go over expectations. When students and guardians can see your face explaining their learning outcomes, they are more likely to participate.

## 9 Collaborate with your fellow educators.

Letting go of control and sharing resources with other teachers will have a very positive impact on your teaching. When teachers work together and hold each other accountable, their instruction becomes more differentiated and engaging for students.

## 10 Have fun with it!

Do your best to craft unique lessons that are fun for your students—and for you. If you're having fun, your students will notice. Switch it up from time to time to keep them on their toes.

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