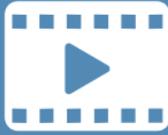


AIMS

Association of Independent
Maryland & DC Schools



DIGESTIBLES FOR DISTANCE LEARNING

Small Ideas for a Big Job!

Digestible #30

Silly Fun

It's Friday. At least, that's what the calendar tells us; sometimes it's hard to know in the "new normal," right? Friday is supposed to be the day for fun, so today, we are sharing **two tips for ways you can connect with your fellow faculty and staff, families and students for a little fun.** We're taking a hiatus next week from these "digestibles." We'll be back again May 11th with fresh ideas and inspiration.

Alecia at AIMS



Flat [Stanley](#)....Teacher

Elementary educators are well-versed in the world of [Flat Stanley](#)--the paper cartoon character. "Students mail their Stanley to someone, such as a friend or relative in another country, or a student at another school participating in the program. The person receiving the Flat Stanley is asked to take a picture with the cut-out doll in various locations and to send a letter back, either via email or regular mail, to the student recounting Flat Stanley's adventures along with the accompanying photo." (Wikipedia) So what's the new idea? **Teachers at East Elementary in North Carolina sent "flat" versions of themselves to their students, and the students are the ones that host the teacher, this time.** Consider sending your own flat teacher to your students via snail mail. Make it a writing assignment for a week or two and ask them to either mail these back or to send back phone images and photos of text entries! Maybe even use [Flipgrid](#) or [Seesaw](#) to send responses so

everyone can see if you want to make it a digital project.

[Learn More](#)

Room for Fun

"Today was March 60th!" one of our webinar attendees typed today into the chat. He was right, for some it feels as if time is standing still. So what we can we do? It's time to start thinking about fun. Some are offering [informal lunches for faculty, including intentionally silly activities like the bingo board to the left.](#) A favorite? "You started talking when your mic was off." Yes, check! Levity is important for bonding! Some are offering lunch bunches for small groups of kids to just share a meal, and some are offering lunch dates with individual students AND parents. Those smaller meetings offer a way to truly understand how your students are feeling and including the families is critical for making sure #indyschool parents are connected and on-board for the long haul. **Here 51 are more virtual team building activities you can do to crank down the "zombie" factor.**

[Learn More](#)

Distance Learning

B	I	N	G	O
A kid or animal interrupted you during a meeting	Less than half of your kids turned in an assignment	You were in a meeting that could've been an email	Your daily work attire includes sweatpants	You started talking while your MIC was off
You had to consider what was in your video background	A student emails you and/or completes work after midnight	A student and/or parent ignored your email.	You frantically looked for your computer charger	You wished you would've grabbed something from your classroom
A student emails you to inform you of an error you've made	You opted not to turn your camera on during a meeting due to your appearance	FREE SPOT	You attended 3 or more virtual meetings in a day	You said WTF multiple times in a day.
You miss a coworker or student	A student claimed they didn't know what to do for your class	You got excited when you saw a kid working or looking at your page	You are horrified by how little you've moved in a day	A website, video, and/or doc stopped working when it just worked.
You chuckle when you read a parent will have a conversation with their kid as they thought they were working	You "almost" fell asleep between 8-3pm	You've changed your mind on your plans multiple times	You forgot you were on camera and should not have made that face	You are fairly certain someone provided a little extra support on a student's work

DIRECTIONS: Move the hand sanitizer image to mark any boxes you've experienced during distance learning.

As we close out April and **National Poetry Month**, our final entry will be from a teacher, [Jessica Salfia, who took the FIRST LINES of emails sent to her during Coronavirus stay-at-home orders](#) and compiled them into a poem. The results are remarkable.

The First Lines of Emails I've Received While Quarantining

In these uncertain times
as we navigate the new normal,
Are you willing to share your ideas and solutions?
As you know, many people are struggling.

I know you are up against it:
the digital landscape.
We share your concerns.
As you know, many people are struggling.

We hope this note finds you and your family safe.
We've never seen anything like this before.
Here are 25 Distance Learning Tips!
As you know, many people are struggling.

Feeling Fiesta today? Happy Taco Tuesday!
Calories don't count during a pandemic.
Grocers report flour shortages as more people are baking than ever!
As you know, many people are struggling.

Count your blessings. Share your blessings.
Get Free Curb-side pick up or ship to your house!
Chicken! Lemon! Artichokes!
As you know, many people are struggling.

How are you inspiring greatness today?
We have a cure for your cabin fever.
Pandemic dial-in town hall TONIGHT!
As you know, many people are struggling.

Mother's Day looks a little different this year.
You're invited to shop all jeans for 50% off!
Yes, buy 1, get 1 free!
As you know, many people are struggling.

Call us to discuss a loan extension without penalty.
ACT NOW: tell Congress Charters should Not Line their Pockets During the
COVID crisis.
Now shipping facemasks as recommended by the CDC.
As you know, many people are struggling.

This is not normal.



890 Airport Park Road, Ste 103
Glen Burnie, MD 21061
aimsmddc.org
410-761-3700
@aimsmddc

