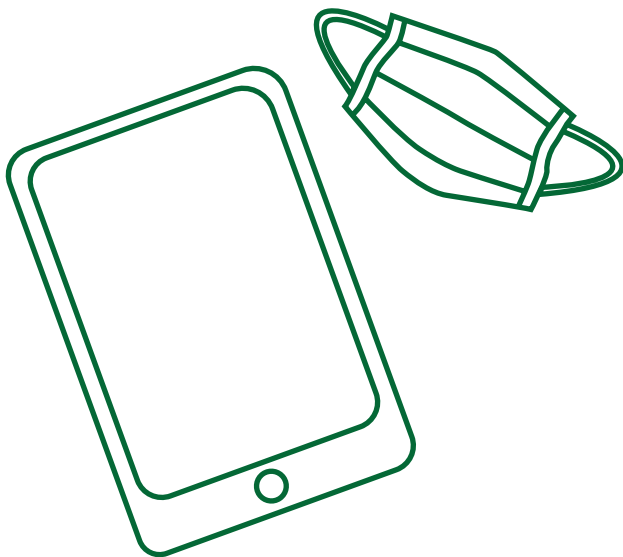


FORMING SUCCESSFUL LEARNING PODS:

Insights from Public Health and Education Technology Experts

PUBLIC HEALTH

- Always wear a mask in public – the more we wear masks, the sooner we can go back to in-person learning
- Maintain 6 feet social distance when in public
- Wash hands frequently
- Keep pods small – 2-3 families is best
- < 8 kids is ideal
- Agree on a COVID “social contract” – establish agreed upon safety protocols and enforce them with families in the pod
- Keep families in your pod informed of lapses in social contract and quarantine if necessary
- Realistically, resuming in-person learning will likely require broader testing of asymptomatic people, a widely available vaccine, and a treatment protocol
- Consider what resources your child may need to safely reenter daily in-person activities while navigating anxiety



EDUCATION

- Consider the pros and cons of podding before you begin
- < 8 students is ideal for learning
- Be aware of equity issues
- Review any homeschooling curriculum for biased or racist content, seek out anti-racist curriculum for inclusion
- Make time for the 4 Cs: critical thinking, creativity, communication, and collaboration, skills
- Allow for unstructured playtime
- Students will need to learn how to learn online – and parents will need to learn how to support online learners
- Encourage your child to find and pursue their passions
- Seek collaboration and communication opportunities
- Hands-on, Minds-on, Hearts-on
- There are going to be challenges – remember parents’ attitudes toward challenges matter!
- For older students, start with learning objectives. What resources and materials will they need to achieve those objectives?
- Build brain breaks into the day
- Vary types of activities to maintain engagement – passive, active/interactive, and creative
- Focus on grit and resilience

