



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF THE OZARKS



**WHATEVER
IT TAKES TO
BUILD
GREAT
FUTURES**

ECDC - BGCO

Education & Career Development
Update v 001

FREE RESOURCES - DIAN SCHAFFHAUSER THE JOURNAL



The Academy of Active Learning Arts and Sciences and the Flipped Learning Global Initiative have published the “Rapid Transition to Online Learning,” a roadmap for making the rapid shift to online learning during school closures. The resources include a checklist for administrators, another for IT managers, a transition plan and video tutorial for teachers and access to an international team of volunteers who have stepped forward to answer questions. The organization is continuing to seek volunteers for the program. <http://aalasinternational.org/rtol/>

Achieve3000 is offering free access to resources for differentiated literacy instruction. Educators can access three different programs. Achieve3000 Literacy at Home offers access to non-fiction articles at three reading levels with topics covering science, social studies and current events. Premium licenses for Actively Learn, for grades 6 -12, provides thousands of texts, including contemporary and classic literature, with collaboration and discussion tools to facilitate interactive remote instruction for English language arts, science and social studies. For students without internet, the company is offering “Literacy Printable Packets,” a set of text sets with 20 printable articles and questions. The company said those text packets add up to a month’s worth of content differentiated for students who are at-, below- and above- grade-level in their reading abilities. Lessons can be downloaded and sent home by email or printed out. <https://achieve3000.com/community-resources/remote-learning-2020/>

Adobe is offering free access to Creative Cloud tools through May for home use by students attending schools that currently only provide lab access through May. <https://helpx.adobe.com/enterprise/kb/covid-19-education-labs.html>

Age of Learning is offering families at affected schools free at-home access to ABCmouse, a learning resource for ages 2 to 8; Adventure Academy, is open for students ages 8 to 13; and ReadingIQ, a digital library and literacy platform is available for children 12 and under. <https://www.ageoflearning.com/>

Amazon’s program, Amazon Future Engineer, is providing free online access to sponsored computer science courses in the United States. That’s intended for learners in grades 6-12, and teachers who are remotely teaching this age group. Parents can also access this curriculum. Future Engineer typically targets under-represented students to draw them into CS education. Courses include “Computer Science Explorations” for middle schoolers; and “Introduction to Computer Science in Python” and the Advanced Placement-oriented “Computer Science Principles” and “Computer Science A.” The company is working with curriculum partner, Edhesive, to grant teachers and students access to these free courses shortly after they complete an online application. https://edhesive.com/amazon/free_access

The American Museum of Natural History is sharing a bunch of online content for teachers and families to use during virus days. That includes the “OLOGY” science website with lessons on subjects from anthropology to zoology; online science curriculum collections; virtual visits to the museum through its YouTube channel; and massive open, online museum courses delivered through Coursera. <https://www.amnh.org/explore>

Amplify has assembled resources to help those using the program to implement remote learning plans. Coverage encompasses mCLASS, Reading, Science, Fractions and English language arts. <https://amplify.com/remotelarning>

Arizona State University has publicized access to three free educational resources it operates for K-12. The first two are “Ask an Anthropologist” and “Ask a Biologist.” Activities include teacher toolkits with lesson ideas, podcasts with transcripts and videos showing the scientists in action, articles, puzzlers, experiments and the ability for students to ask experts questions. The third is “Virtual Field Trips,” which provides 18 virtual trips with photos, explanations, short videos and maps. While the trips can be viewed on a computer, they really come to life through a virtual reality headset that allows for 360-degree viewing.



FREE RESOURCES - DIAN SCHAFFHAUSER THE JOURNAL



Babbel is offering three months of free language learning to U.S. students through mid-June 2020 in any of its languages: Spanish, French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Polish, Russian, Dutch, Turkish, Danish, Norwegian, Swedish, Indonesian, and English. <https://welcome.babbel.com/en/student-discount/>

Bloomz is opening the premium version of its communication service for free to all schools through Jun. 30, 2020. The software allows users to communicate updates in real-time to parents and students; and share lessons, student work and feedback. <https://freetrial.bloomz.com/coronavirus-schools/>

Booleangirl has launched live, online events to help teach students “to code, build, invent and animate.” The events, which are taking place every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 3 to 4 p.m. Eastern time, introduce new engineering and coding projects to increase interest and engagement around STEM. Each is being recorded so that students can watch the session afterwards if they miss the live presentation. <https://booleangirl.org/full-stem-ahead/>

Carnegie Mellon has reiterated availability of “Computer Science Academy,” a free, online, interactive high school CS curriculum. CS1 is the year-long flagship course, with 120 hours of instruction and a “robust introduction” to coding with Python through graphics and animations. This course is available to educators with teacher accounts. CS0 is a “lite” version, which includes about 40 hours of instruction and is intended for middle school, out-of-school programs and summer camp settings. This course is available for both mentor and teacher accounts. <https://academy.cs.cmu.edu/coronavirus2020>

The Character Tree is giving teachers a way to share character education videos and downloadable resources with parents to use at home. Free access will last through Jun. 30, 2020. This program provides videos for first and second graders, with discussions, examples from history and role modeling to teach “character development” and emphasize positive character traits, including kindness, curiosity and integrity. All lessons are standards-aligned and come with printable resources. Parents can also sign up for their own free accounts. https://go.characterree.com/free_home_access_for_students

CirQlive, which connects web conferencing platforms to learning management systems, is giving 90 days of free usage of its integration tool as well as free consulting services for administrators on how to deploy or scale online learning. Schools need to provide the number of host licenses required and the company will set them up. <https://www.cirqlive.com/>

ClassTag has made its communication platform freely available to help districts and schools communicate with their families. The software sends messages through SMS, email, apps and the web and automatically translates them into one of 55 languages. The platform can also be used to post videos, assignments and other resources for students to access at home and allow users to run virtual lessons with a video conferencing tool, such as Zoom. ClassTag has launched a “rapid onboarding program” that provides a hands-on demo and phone and chat support to get schools launched in under 48 hours. <https://home.classtag.com/schoolwide-demo/>

Comcast has increased speeds from 15 Mbps to 25 in “Internet Essentials,” a program for low-income families to get internet access. The company has also eliminated the \$9.95 price per month and made it free to new low-income customers for two months. <https://www.internetessentials.com/>

Crowdmark is offering free access to its online grading and analytics platform until May 31. <https://crowdmark.com/blog/ensuring-continuity-of-education-with-remote-grading-workflows/>



FREE RESOURCES - DIAN SCHAFFHAUSER THE JOURNAL



Curriculum Associates has made printable at-home activity packs available for students that include self-directed and practice exercises. Reading and math packets are available for each grade from kindergarten through grade 8. Teacher guides have also been made available. <https://www.curriculumassociates.com/supporting-students-away-from-school>

DeeperDive Learning, which provides online professional development, has made two of its “FamilyU” courses available to parents, grandparents and others working with their students at home. The company said it was making “How to Read with Your Child” and “Building Reading Fluency at Home” available for free for two to the first 1,000 families who sign up. Those who register will receive a code and access instructions within one to two days via email.

DH2i is making its DxOdyssey networking software available free through Aug. 31, 2020. The software is a Windows and Linux remote access program is an alternative to virtual private networks that provides “discreet and secure tunnels for application access” across the internet, corporate networks and cloud environments. Interestingly, company emphasized that its software download “is completely anonymous.” There’s no personal information collected, “to provide the assurance that no sales communications will result during or after the download and use of the software.” DH2i is also making its support team available to help new users during regular business hours, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Pacific time, Monday through Friday. <https://wfh.dh2i.com/>

Discovery Education has made its Discovery Education Experience digital service available to U.S. schools and districts that aren’t already using the resources. The expansive platform provides access to 180,000 “assignable, editable” activities, videos, ready-to-use lessons and other resources” for K-12 math, science, social studies, English language arts and health. The company is also hosting a virtual conference on Mar. 26 and Mar. 27, 2020, to help educators apply Discover Ed resources in online education. <https://www.discoveryeducation.com/virtual-learning/>

Earwig Academy has made its software for assessment, evidence capture and management, tracking and reporting free to schools for the next six months. The company said in a statement that it has created a modified version that can be “used intuitively and without the usual training required.” Teachers and school leaders can apply at info@earwigacademic.com.

edHelper.com, which produces printable worksheets and educational resources to teachers and homeschooling parents, said it would be publishing free daily workbooks for students who are out of school. The workbooks include math and writing exercises for elementary students. The company said the contents would be updated daily. <https://www.edhelper.com/teacher-education/Daily-Free-Learning-Workbooks-for-Teachers-to-Share-with-Parents-while-Schools-are-Closed-Kids-will-actually-do-these.htm>

Education advisory Education Elements is providing K-12 leaders webinars, office hours and online “coffee chats” on topics that include leadership, equity, trauma and virtual learning during school closures. <https://www.edelements.com/covid19-school-districts>

Educational Insights has compiled a set of free at-home worksheets for young learners. Those activities cover reading and language arts practice worksheets for grades K-2, spelling riddles for grades 4-6 and math for pre-k-2; as well as coloring, crafts and “brain benders” (word searches, riddles, connect-the-dots and mazes, among other games). <https://www.educationalinsights.com/at-home-activities-for-kids>

Education Modified has compiled two “bundles” of research-based information and resources to help families of special population students get through the remote learning experience. One covers how to help children do schoolwork at home; the other offers research-based activities for home-based learning. <http://educationmodified-4381533.hs-sites.com/at-home-learning-resources>



FREE RESOURCES - DIAN SCHAFFHAUSER THE JOURNAL



Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University is running a free massive open online course for students ages 8 to 17 on “Aviation is Your Future.” The online program runs for nine weeks, from Mar. 16 through May 31, and requires a total of about six hours of time. The class is self-paced. The contents were produced by the university’s Woman in Aviation International Chapter. Coverage includes a rundown on aviation terminology, aspects of flight such as lift and gravity, the major parts of the airplane, how a helicopter works and why space exploration is important. <https://www.canvas.net/browse/erau/erau-coppa/courses/aviation-is-your-future>

Encyclopaedia Britannica is offering all schools and students free access to its “LaunchPacks” science and social studies learning content. The sets are intended for students in K-12 and provide articles, images, videos and primary sources of information, presented in an “engaging interface,” optimized for smart devices. The resources are translated into multiple languages. <https://britannicalearn.com/covid-19-free-resources/>

Epic is providing elementary educators and librarians the ability to offer students remote access to its reading platform for free until Jun. 30, 2020, with no credit card required. Students may access the company’s digital library, which has 35,000-plus books, read-to-me and audiobooks, videos and quizzes. Teachers and librarians can stay connected to their students by assigning books or collections and monitoring their progress. <https://www.getepic.com/learn/freeremotestudentaccess/>

Exploratorium, in San Francisco, has released a new online learning toolbox with free science activities and materials addressing public health topics around COVID-19 and more general science support activities and materials for virtual classrooms and at-home learning, covering the nature of viruses, the effect of soap on viruses, how we test for and fight against viruses, as well as the science of personal and social behaviors and interactions. The organization has also posted 285 science activities, called “science snacks,” which use “cheap, readily available materials” and can be done at home. <https://www.exploratorium.edu/learn>

EZTexting is providing free emergency text alert services to schools. To qualify, people need to sign up using their EDU email address. They’ll receive 100,000 free outgoing text messages for six months, access to a set of coronavirus message templates and one-on-one consulting. They also get a free keyword, with a short code to distribute to the community for quick sign-up of text messages. <https://try.eztexting.com/free-text-alerts-new>

Follett has waived the cost for current Destiny customers through Jun. 30, 2020 for its “Classroom Ready Collections.” These are pre-K-12 learning standards-aligned, educator-curated open educational resources with lesson plans, activities, videos and worksheets. The company reported that more than 2,300 free CRC licenses have been activated in less than a week. <https://www.follettcommunity.com/s/article/follett-e-learning-resources>

Follett has also worked with two partners to make their offers free to schools through Jun. 30, 2020. Weigl Publishers’s Lightbox, is a pre-K-12 ebook platform that uses video, audio and text to explore content aligned with national and state standards. The learning includes slideshows, activities, quizzes, vocabulary and at-home printable worksheets, as well as Google Maps to provide further context. AV2 is making its World Languages available free over the same period. Intended for K-3, the program is a collection of 1,000 audio ebooks comprised of 100 high-interest titles in 10 languages. Both sets of programs can be accessed by educators, parents and students on all devices. Register on the Follett website for access to either program. <https://cloud.k12edu.follett.com/lightbox-av2-offer>

Science equipment reseller Flinn Scientific has compiled numerous resources for science education, including video labs with teacher and student guides and 40 at-home activities for middle and high school science students. The company is also offering broadcasts of lab experiments conducted by its own scientific staff, with scientists on hand to answer questions. <https://www.flinnsci.com/athomescience/at-home-lab-series/>



FREE RESOURCES - DIAN SCHAFFHAUSER THE JOURNAL



Gale is offering educators and librarians free access to digital content and resources to enhance instruction and learning. Resources include: interdisciplinary, curriculum-aligned resources to support online learning; live and on-demand training materials; e-books on virtual learning; and more. <https://www.gale.com/covid19support>.

GoGuardian is providing free, full-functional access to its whole suite of tools through the end of the school year. Those tools include at-home web filtering, classroom management, device management and student safety tools that will be useful during the transition to remote learning. The company said new users could deploy the software “in as little as 15 minutes.” Also, current GoGuardian customers can receive free access to additional tools. The company noted that it was “happy” to expand license counts temporarily as needed. <https://www.goguardian.com/blog/news/providing-learning-continuity-during-school-closures/>

Google is allowing G Suite for Education customers to use the Hangouts Meet premium functionality for free through July 1. People can host virtual meetings with up to 250 people and live streams with up to 100,000 viewers. Additionally, they’ll be able to save recordings of their meetings to Google Drive. <https://support.google.com/meet/answer/9760270?hl=en>

Great Minds has made free recorded learning resources available, including daily instructional videos for math (grades K-12), English language arts (grades k-8) and science (grades 3-5). The organization has said it would update its newly recorded lessons daily. <https://gm.greatminds.org/en-us/knowledgeonthego>

hand2mind is making free math activities for home access available. Those include downloadable lessons and “virtual manipulatives” for grades K-8. <https://www.hand2mind.com/resources/lessons>

Hargray, a telecommunications company that serves the southeastern United States, will offer free Internet service for 60 days to households in its service area with K-12 or college students who do not already have an internet subscription. <https://www.hargray.com/freeinternet>. The company will also offer discounted internet speed upgrades to existing customers to ensure they have the necessary bandwidth to accommodate higher Internet usage in their homes during this time. To take advantage of that, call the company at (877) 427-4729.

JASON Learning is offering free access to its online STEM curriculum through the end of April. The nonprofit produces lessons for science, technology, engineering and math. Normally, it charges a per-student fee, which is being currently being waived. Interested schools and districts are asked to fill in a short online form to gain access. <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfEtjx-qWlf2Zp5-LqoHKpCTX5limQFcyTe3J12s2waJK7Oag/viewform>

JoVE has made its educational video content available through Jun. 15, 2020. That includes free access to the three types of resources: JoVE Core, a video textbook that covers core concepts in biology and social psychology to improve learning comprehension; JoVE Science Education, a collection of easy-to-understand video demonstrations in eight STEM fields; and Lab Manual, curriculum for introductory biology lab courses. The company is also making its curriculum specialists available to help faculty map JoVE videos to their curriculum at no charge. <https://info2.jove.com/requestaccess>

Kahoot! has begun offering free access to the “premium” version of its game-based learning software. <https://kahoot.com/access-kahoot-premium-for-free/>



FREE RESOURCES - DIAN SCHAFFHAUSER THE JOURNAL



Kapwing is giving away licenses for its professional edition to teachers. Kapwing is a collaborative online image and video editor with a cloud storage workspace. According to the company, it serves as an “excellent tool for teachers who are making video materials or lessons to send to students for remote learning, for students working together on a group project or for a classroom looking for a digital space to share multimedia projects with each other.” The pro edition can accommodate videos up to 40 minutes long (versus 10 minutes in the free, basic version), lets users edit and store all content, make the content private and offers a one-giga-byte upload limit. Free teacher accounts are available through Apr. 17, 2020. <https://www.kapwing.com/resources/free-kapwing-pro-accounts-for-educators-affected-by-covid-19/>

Kinedu, an app designed to help families and caregivers engage in personalized, science-backed activities with their young child, is offering its services free through April 15. The company, which has been funded and supported by MIT Solve, provides a proprietary developmental assessment, as well as a daily activity plan tailored to each child’s development. <https://www.kinedu.com/>

Kiron has broadcast access to a set of free, interactive online lessons to help teachers globally learn how to better teach students online during school closings. The startup, funded and supported by MIT Solve, focuses primarily on refugees worldwide and underserved communities in the Middle East to provide access to high-quality education. However, the course applies to educators making the switch to online teaching anywhere, covering topics such as getting active participation online and creating a learning environment. <https://teach.kiron.ngo/>

Knowre has announced that it would make its math service free to all American teachers, schools and districts through the end of the school year. Knowre Math is an online core supplement for grades 1-12 that needs only a browser to view or an iPad app. Features include “walk me through” support and targeted assignments to help the student work independently. Teachers receive access to student progress via a dashboard. https://www.knowre.com/school_closure_support/

Kokomo24/7 has produced “COVID19Tracker,” to allow schools to collect, track, share and manage information about cases of coronavirus in their area. <https://www.covid19tracker.org/>

LearnPlatform is providing services its education technology services free for districts and state education agencies through June 2020. The program tracks software usage, requests and educator feedback about the software they use. <https://learnplatform.com/contact-us>

Legends of Learning has opened access to its 2,000 standards-aligned math and science games for free for the rest of the school year to schools and parents. The company is also providing its premium-level custom assessments, scheduling features, data and analytics and training and support for all schools affected by closures.

Learning Resources is posting daily activities for young learners on its website. A recent post covered “nine letter writing prompts for kids”; another offered a STEM challenge: “What makes 10?” <http://blog.learningresources.com/category/learning-at-home/>

Macmillan Learning is offering free access to LaunchPad, Sapling, iClicker and Flipt to educators and students through the remainder of the spring 2020 semester as well as the winter 2020 quarter for those schools not already using these digital products. LaunchPad provides an online space where students can read, study, practice and complete homework on a given subject. Sapling gives students “wrong answer-specific feedback” on their problems so they learn from correct and incorrect answers. iClicker is a response system that works in an online format. FliptPhysics is a class preparation system that uses active learning. The company is also hosting a series of webinars to help educators make the transition to online teaching. <https://www.macmillanlearning.com/college/us/content/covid19>



FREE RESOURCES - DIAN SCHAFFHAUSER THE JOURNAL



Managed Methods, a cybersecurity platform that monitors G Suite, Office 365 and email applications for cybersecurity threats and student safety risks, is offering K-12 school districts free access to its platform through May 31, with training and support. The company has also published a checklist to help school IT teams vet their cybersecurity and safety protections during the move to remote learning. <https://get.managedmethods.com/k12-cybersecurity-free-access>

Mango is making its Classroom online language-learning program freely available to schools through the end of the current school year. The program offers lessons for 70 languages in a digital format that can be accessed online and offline, via desktop and mobile app. The software includes on-task monitoring and assessment results for teachers and reading, listening and speaking activities for students. <https://mangolanguages.com/info/covid19-response.cfm>

Math Nation is offering free services through August 2020 in the following states: Alabama, Florida, Michigan, Mississippi, New York, South Carolina and Tennessee. This learning program uses printed workbooks and online activities, including videos, to cover Algebra 1. Teachers can assign explanatory videos to students based on their learning needs; the study experts in the videos cover the same material at different speeds and with different styles. A practice test tool at the end of each section of content quizzes students and provides instant results and personalized feedback to identify gaps in understanding. Students can also get feedback from teachers, tutors and peers on the "Algebra Wall." And a "Teacher Wall" helps educators from within a given state engage with each other. For free access, contact <mailto:access@mathnation.com>.

McGraw-Hill has developed an out-of-school learning website to help K-12 teachers make the transition to remote instruction, with product walkthroughs of its many math products and other free resources and videos over the coming days. <https://www.mheducation.com/prek-12/explore/remote-learning.html>

Menlo Security is offering no-cost licenses to organizations to help their employees maintain security during work-from-home days. The software covers three security concerns: isolation of email links and attachments to protect against phishing attacks or malicious attachments; direct connection to the internet without having to use the virtual private network infrastructure; and a free assessment of the current infrastructure and development of a deployment plan to quickly deploy services. The offer is good until May 1, 2020. <https://info.menlosecurity.com/Request-Your-Free-Proxy-and-Phishing-Protection-Licenses.html>

Microsoft is reminding schools and districts that it offers a free set of productivity applications – including Outlook, Word, Excel, PowerPoint and OneNote – for education, for those schools that haven't adopted a software suite yet. Office 365 A1 also comes with services, including OneDrive (for storage and file transfer), Teams (for web communications), Forms (for quizzes) and other utilities useful for collaboration. <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-365/academic/compare-office-365-education-plans?activetab=tab%3aprimar1>

MIND Research Institute is offering ST Math to parents, schools and districts for grades K-8, free through Jun. 30, 2020. The company has also compiled resources to help parents and teachers get their students up and running on the lessons. <https://www.stmath.com/coronavirus>

The National Constitution Center is launching a free eight-week series of daily live interactive courses on the Constitution for middle school and high school students. They'll be led by NCC President and CEO, Jeffrey Rosen, a law professor and constitutional expert, along with other NCC constitutional scholars and educators. The sessions, delivered via Zoom, will allow students to participate in daily lectures and conversations about the basic principles of the U.S. Constitution. Teachers are also able to sign their students up for virtual "Classroom Exchanges," expanded to go beyond classroom-to-classroom conversations to meet students in remote environments. Teachers who would like to sign up their classes for private remote teaching sessions with scholars can sign up here.



FREE RESOURCES - DIAN SCHAFFHAUSER THE JOURNAL



National University, a mostly online institution, is offering free tuition for California college students who have had their learning disrupted because of the virus. Their courses are offered monthly, and students can sign up for up to three courses over the next three months. The university said it has nearly 2,000 online courses, most of which are asynchronous and available to students anywhere and anytime, and are transferable for credit at colleges across the state. <https://www.nu.edu/coronavirusresponse/>

Nepris, which delivers online talks with industry professionals on a wide array of subjects, is making its virtual industry chats available to everyone through April. The schedule is available online: <https://www.nepris.com/sessions/upcoming>

Newsela is providing free access to its collections, including those for English language arts, social studies, science and social-emotional learning, through the 2019-2020 school year. Newsela is an instructional content platform that combines leveled content with integrated formative assessments, culled from sources that include the National Geographic, NASA, Biography.com, Encyclopedia Britannica, the Washington Post and many others. Access can be by individual teacher for the class or district administrator for the whole district. <https://newsela.com/about/distance-learning/>

OneLogin is offering OneLogin Trusted Experience Platform for free to educators. That consists of single sign-on, multi-factor authentication and certificate-based authentication, to help secure virtual experiences for users. <https://www.onelogin.com/lp/promo-edu-virtual-learning>

OpenSciEd, already available for free to teachers in face-to-face instruction, is promoting the use of functionality that works for online teaching. In particular, the organization's simulations allow students to explore scientific concepts. Teachers are also sharing how they're adapting the materials for online instruction through social sites, using the hashtag #OpenSciEd #Remote. <https://www.openscienced.org/openscienced-approach/>

OpenStax is reminding educators and families that its 38 open source (read: free) digital textbooks in core college and Advanced Placement subjects are available. On top of that, the nonprofit said that it would offer free access to its online homework offerings (which normally have a low-cost attached to them). That covers ROVER for math subjects and TUTOR, a beta program that provides online courseware and learning tools needed to complete a course; coverage includes physics, biology, and introduction to sociology. Also, 28 "allies" that have worked with OpenStax to develop homework and courseware that accompany its textbooks have made their offerings free. Those are listed on this OpenStax article. Finally, OpenStax has compiled lists of resource for each of its subjects, which it is documenting through its blog.

Outschool has opened up its online classrooms to deliver remote courses to K-12 students ages three to 18, affected by school closures. The classes are being made available free through donations for families who can't afford to pay for the service. There are some 10,000 classes available in the company's catalog, and each consists of small-group video chats created and taught by vetted teachers. <https://blog.outschool.com/free-online-classes-for-public-school-students-affected-by-closures/>

PandaTree, a foreign language learning platform for learners two to 17, has launched a free daily StoryTime in Spanish and Chinese that any child can participate in. https://www.pandatree.com/story_time.

PC Matic is offering free cybersecurity protection and remote management tools until Jun. 30, 2020 for organizations that have 10 or more employees relocating their work home due to coronavirus closures. PC Matic Pro provides whitelisting to keep unsanctioned programs from being installed; device authentication; remote management from a central console, including a remote command prompt, file manager, reboot and shutdown; patch management; performance monitoring; and monitoring, reporting and security to stop remote desktop protocol attacks. <https://www.pcmatic.com/covid19#instructionsPro>



FREE RESOURCES - DIAN SCHAFFHAUSER THE JOURNAL



PearDeck has opened access to Pear Deck Premium for 90 days. Pear Deck lets teachers create, distribute, and manage multimedia content and formative assessments on students' devices. Access is available to individuals and to districts. <https://www.peardeck.com/stay-connected>

PowerMyLearning is offering its "Family Playlists" program free to all schools and districts from now through the end of the school year. The program helps educators bring families into the process of learning by providing visual reporting on student progress, creating playlists that put students into the role of teacher-at-home and taking family members through learning activities and providing resources on how to help families understand state learning standards, social-emotional learning and other aspects of their children's learning. Playlists cover grades 3-8 in math, English language arts and science. Since the program uses phones, families can participate without a computer. The playlists can be delivered in 100 languages and integrate with Google Classroom and Clever. Teachers also get access to a collaborative platform with activities, assessments and interactives. To adopt the program for a school or district, reach out to Bill Rappel at (877) 338-1113 or <mailto:BRappel@PowerMyLearning.org>.

PowerNotes is offering free site licenses to school districts. The software helps students unify the steps in "reading, gathering, saving, annotating, organizing, outlining, tracking and citing research" into a workflow. Teachers gain visibility into student progress on research projects. All that's needed from interested schools is a quick phone call with the company support team to help get the service set up. <https://www.blog.powernotes.com/get-started>

Promethean is making its cloud-based lesson planning and delivery software, ClassFlow, freely available to schools, teachers and parents. The program enables users to access K-12 educational resources across subjects and share lesson content with students who are working from remote locations. In addition, teachers who currently subscribed to the company's ActivInspire can create and record lessons for students to use in any cloud environment. <https://classflow.com/>

Pronto, which connects people via chat and video messaging, is providing its synchronous communication platform for free for the spring and summer 2020 semesters to instructors. <https://pronto.io/>

Quizlet is offering nothing special; but as usual the company continues to make many services available free, including its classroom games and flashcard study guides. <https://quizlet.com/>

RoboKind, which produces "advanced social robots," has made a virtual coding course from its robots4STEM Avatar Version for elementary and middle school students available through Jun. 30, 2020. The software uses an online avatar that students program rather than programming a physical robot. <https://www.robokind.com/robots4stem/home>

Scholastic has made a "Learn at Home" digital hub available to support virtual learning plans that will remain open "indefinitely." "Learning journeys" are divided into four grade bands: pre-K-K, grades 1-2, grades 3-5 and grades 6-9-plus. Lessons cover English language arts, STEM, science, social studies and social-emotional learning. The program currently offers about three hours of programming per day, for up to four weeks of instruction. That includes activities such as writing and research projects based on nonfiction articles and stories, virtual field trips, reading and geography challenges and access to a digital community for kids. Teachers can plan virtual learning meetups to discuss and expand on any of the resources found on the site. <https://classroommagazines.scholastic.com/support/learnathome.html>



FREE RESOURCES - DIAN SCHAFFHAUSER THE JOURNAL



Science News for Students has compiled COVID-19-specific content for students in grades 9-12. The organization, which is dedicated to expanding scientific literacy in schools, recently released the “Coronavirus Outbreak Collection,” which includes articles and updates about the virus, freely available resources, and even advice on how to cope with social distancing. For younger students, Science News is promoting experiments that can be done by students at home; a weekly vocabulary lesson, “Scientists Say”; discussion questions, puzzlers and “Let’s learn about,” a new series that offers multiple stories on a given topic, among other resources. <https://www.sciencenewsforstudents.org/>

Smart Sparrow is making its “inspark Smart Courses” available free at no cost to institutions and schools. These are replacements for textbooks, that use interactive activities for learning. Instructors get tools to track student outcomes and customize the content using the Smart Sparrow platform. Courseware topics include biology, anatomy and physiology, chemistry, astrobiology, astronomy, geology, science for citizens, science writing, Galapagos exploration, global challenges and English composition. <https://landing.inspark.education/teach>

SMART Technologies has made its Learning Suite Online available free. The software will give students and teachers access to tools for active distance learning and lesson creation, which can be delivered on any device, including Chromebook computers. Among the features: Collaborative Workspace activities allow students to work together from home on a shared digital canvas to co-create, add content and problem solve. Shout It Out activities let students send texts and images from their devices to a lesson. Teachers can then rearrange, organize and discuss contributions. <https://go.smarttech.com/distancelearning>

Sparx, a UK company, is making its math virtual classroom available free to schools affected by the coronavirus. Sparx Maths has been adapted to help teachers build online math lessons that can be delivered through a streaming channel of the teacher’s choice. The platform includes a “bank” of 2,000 learning objectives. As students complete their classroom online, it’s automatically marked. Teachers can monitor the progress of every student in real-time, including whether students have joined the lesson and who might be struggling. <https://learning.sparx.co.uk/virtualclassroom>

Strategic Education said it would make its Sophia Learning online education platform available free to all comers through Jul 31, 2020. All Sophia general education courses are American Council on Education-recommended and transferrable to numerous higher education institutions for course credit. Those courses cover statistics, human biology, accounting, art history, environmental science and micro- and macroeconomics, among other subjects. <https://www.sophia.org/online-courses-for-college-credit>

Studies Weekly is now open to all teachers and students to use, whether or not they’re current customers. The online platform includes all student editions, teacher editions, lesson plans, English language arts integrations and assessments. The program K-6 produces standards-based curriculum for social studies and science, which usually pairs with the company’s periodical-based printed materials. <https://www.studiesweekly.com/>

Thoughtexchange has opened its enterprise crowdsourcing platform to any educational organization that wants to reach out to its staff and community in an open-ended way to find out what people are thinking about, what kind of support they need, and what they believe the challenges to be for the future. As one education user explained, “The value of [the service] during a crisis is that people have things they have to get off their chest.” <https://www.thoughtexchange.com/keep-people-connected/>

Top Hat has made its education platform free of charge for the rest of the semester to support educators transitioning to remote teaching and learning. Be forewarned: For those who sign up, the company will put an education specialist “in touch” within one to three business days “to help you get set up.” <https://tophat.com/covid-19-response/>



FREE RESOURCES - DIAN SCHAFFHAUSER THE JOURNAL



TrueConf is offering educational institutions free access to its on-premises video conferencing system for up to 1,000 users. According to the company, the self-hosted distance learning platform can be set up “within 15 minutes.” TrueConf is maintained by an IT administrator and works well for regions with “unstable” internet connectivity. The program’s video conferencing mode and collaboration tools include screen sharing and video conference recording. Students can join online classes from any device via client applications for Windows, macOS, Linux, Android and iOS, as well as from browsers with no extra plugins. Access will remain open until Jun. 30, after which the company cut the price in half for a server license to any academic organization. <https://trueconf.com/blog/blog/news/covid-19-be-safe-work-from-home-with-trueconf.html>

TypeTastic has made its classroom, school and district editions free until the end of June 2020. The company provides access to 700 games and keyboarding activities. The service promises ad-free access with multiple varieties of reporting and integration with popular K-12 course management and productivity software. <https://edu.typtastic.com/free-keyboarding-resources.html>

Unity Technologies is providing free access to Unity Learn Premium, a 3D development platform, through Jun. 20, 2020. Registration provides access to live sessions with Unity experts and 350-plus hours of tutorials, hands-on projects, and courses for game developers, covering topics from “Game Mechanic Design Fundamentals” to “Getting Started with Post-Processing Stack for VR.” Unity is also delivering virtual classes through “Create with Code Live,” free for students, instructors and anyone else interested in learning to code; those sessions kick off on Mar. 23 at 9 a.m. Pacific time or 5 p.m. Pacific time. <https://unity.com/products/learn-premium>

UPchieve, a nonprofit that provides free, online math tutoring to low-income high school students, traditionally asks schools with participating students to pay a small fee to keep its service running. In response to COVID-19 school closures, that fee has been waived through the end of the school year. And any student who creates an account during this period can keep using UPchieve for free, forever, the organization said. The service works on any device; students choose the subject they need help with, and UPchieve matches them with a volunteer tutor in a virtual classroom. Students can get as many free sessions as they want. <https://upchieve.org/school-closures>

Vernier has produced free remote learning solutions to keep students engaged in STEM during school closures. That includes access to Vernier Video Analysis, which lets students use their mobile devices in video analysis work (through June 2020), and Pivot Interactives for allowing students to vary experimental parameters one at a time (for 30 days), as well 80-plus experiments with sample data covering numerous subjects. <https://www.vernier.com/remote-learning/>

Wiley has made WileyPLUS, Knewton Alta and zBooks available through the Spring 2020 term. Also, the company has made more than 5,000 COVID-19-related articles freely available on a Wiley Online Library site. <https://secure.wiley.com/COVID19OpenWPAccess>, <https://www.zybooks.com/>, <https://novel-coronavirus.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/>

Wooclap has made its software free for K-12 educators to use “forever.” The program helps teachers inject interactivity into remote lessons through quizzes, polls, wordclouds and other methods. The platform also includes flashcards (“wooflash”), which promote student memorization and comprehension while generating data to help educators track student progress. <https://www.wooclap.com/>

Zearn has made its K-5 math curriculum available for free to teachers. The content includes 400 hours of digital lessons with on-screen teachers and “supportive remediation,” as well as paper-based materials that can be used device-free. The company is running continual webinars for district administrators, teachers and parents to help them get the service set up for their students. <https://about.zearn.org/distance-learning>



FREE RESOURCES - DIAN SCHAFFHAUSER THE JOURNAL



Zoom has lifted the 40-minute meeting limit on its free basic accounts for K-12 and teamed up with Clever to make Zoom accessible to Clever districts that are experiencing closures. Outschool, a marketplace for live online classes, has made available free remote teacher training webinars demonstrating how to adapt teaching practices and curriculum to a live video chat classroom. <https://blog.zoom.us/wordpress/2020/03/13/how-to-use-zoom-for-online-learning/>



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF THE OZARKS

