

March 24, 2020

MontanaPBS Partners with OPI to Support Students Learning At Home with Free Online Resources and a Revised Broadcast TV Schedule of Educational Programs Beginning Monday, March 30.

As schools and districts in Montana suspend classes to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, MontanaPBS and the Montana Office of Public Instruction announce an ambitious plan to support home learning for students by delivering a new weekday television schedule of educational programs aligned to state standards and by creating a suite of free digital learning resources accessible from home.

“These school closures bring unique challenges for teachers, parents and caregivers in how to keep Montana kids engaged and learning,” says MontanaPBS General Manager Aaron Pruitt “As our state’s public television service and as a hub for digital learning resources, MontanaPBS can play a critical role in helping create a learning environment with trusted and quality resources outside of the classroom and at home.”

Beginning Monday March 30, MontanaPBS will dedicate its daytime weekday schedule to Montana state standards-aligned educational programming provided by MontanaPBS and the Office of Public Instruction. The new 6:30am to 5:30pm weekday schedule includes specific blocks of time for pre-K through 8th grade levels and covers subjects, including English language arts, social studies, science and math. MontanaPBS’ regular primetime schedule is not affected by this change.

“During these unprecedented circumstances, teachers are continuing to teach and students are continuing to learn through a combination of digital and non-digital distance study. This can present challenges for ensuring equitable delivery of education services,” said Superintendent of Public Instruction Elsie Arntzen. “The new daily TV programming will help bridge this divide and provide additional opportunities for equitable access to education.”

As part of this unique collaboration between MontanaPBS and the Office of Public Instruction, MontanaPBS has curated corresponding free digital content for at-home learning and support for teachers navigating this new learning landscape. Aligned to the same Montana content standards and topic areas as the broadcast service, MontanaPBS is creating and sharing the following free resources for teachers here:

How Teachers Can Navigate School Closures Due to the Coronavirus

- **Educational TV schedule:** MontanaPBS is broadcasting standards-aligned programs like *NOVA*, *SciGirls*, *History Detectives*, *American Masters*, and MontanaPBS programs featuring Montana History and Indian Education

content such as *Indian Relay* and *Montana Mosaics* weekdays from 6:30am through 5:30pm. [Daily schedule here.](#)

- **Digital Media Collections:** MontanaPBS is providing resource collections on PBS LearningMedia that correspond with our TV broadcast schedule. Collections include curated media and lessons, sorted by grade level and subject area.
- **Support for Teachers:** MontanaPBS has begun offering live webinars for teachers on how to start using these learning platforms. PBS LearningMedia webinars are offered weekly. A schedule can be found on our website.
- **Curated Tips and Tools for Teachers:** MontanaPBS published a webpage for teachers that points to articles and resources created and/or vetted by the MontanaPBS Education team, other public media organizations and other trusted education partners.
- **Unplugged Learning Activities for Families:** MontanaPBS published a webpage for parents with learning menus for K-12 students to be used for home learning. All of the learning menus feature activities that do not require technology or an internet connection.

For more about MontanaPBS Learn at Home resources visit <https://www.montanapbs.org/education/distance-learning-at-home/>

Educators looking for support implementing distance learning using the Learn at Home programming schedule can contact the MontanaPBS Education staff. Contact information is below.

MontanaPBS is available to families via free, over-the-air broadcast, in the state's larger cities, on translators in smaller communities, as well as on cable TV, Dish, Direct TV and the recently launched live streaming service, YouTube TV. To watch MontanaPBS in your community, visit our [Broadcast Area](#) page.

About Montana's Largest Classroom - MontanaPBS

MontanaPBS connects the residents of this state to each other, to their country and their world through the use of broadcast television, the internet and community outreach projects. We are an electronic town square that encourages the sharing of ideas, opinions and information. MontanaPBS chooses programs based on community impact and engages in services that echo the independent spirit and neighborly concern that is the hallmark of our state.

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