

What improvements are being made to Continuous Learning at TIS?

In the event of a single class or the whole school being sent home or quarantined, we are prepared to transition smoothly to our comprehensive Continuous Learning program.

It will once again provide the entire program to our students in a virtual setting: Unit of Inquiry, Language, Math, English, Art, Music, PE, and Library.

Families and teachers provided a lot of feedback about what worked and what didn't in the spring. While overall it was a successful program, we are preparing to make some key improvements in the event that we would need it again. Below are a few of the improvements we will be making.

STREAMLINING OUR RESOURCES

- We will be expanding and standardizing the use of Google apps such as Google Classroom and Gmail, as well as providing more training for students on how to use these tools effectively and appropriately.
- We are strategically choosing the other online resources being used to ensure that they match our program and teaching philosophy, as well as streamlining their use.

ZOOM

- We will be switching to Zoom for our video conferencing software.
- Among many other improvements, Zoom's breakout room feature will allow our virtual classes to have both whole group and small group instruction within the same class period. This provides our teachers with a lot more flexibility for instruction, and it far better matches the structures and models that we use in the classroom.
- We will now have the ability to have small group discussions, group projects, and more engaging classes overall. It will also provide more time engaged in speaking the target language.

PRIORITIZING SMALL GROUPS

- The overwhelming consensus was that the time spent in small groups or individually with the teacher was the most beneficial part of Continuous Learning.
- Zoom will provide us more flexibility to learn in small groups, and we will be prioritizing small group and individual times when designing the schedule.

