Combine synchronous and asynchronous instruction during your class time

1. At both K-12 and college levels, educators should use a learning model that students are used to in order to create consistency. If you teach every day from 10:00 a.m. to 10:50 a.m., plan your remote instruction for that same time.

2. Within regularly scheduled class time, plan both synchronous—when everyone is online together—and asynchronous activities. For example, hold a 10-minute video lesson before having students complete an offline activity. Your instruction period should incorporate both kinds of activities.

3. Remember that you do not need to start from scratch. There is a tremendous amount of content available online, much of which is free-of-charge, that teachers should utilize. Lessons from Khan Academy, for example, may explain a concept just the same as you might. Don’t feel the need to reinvent the wheel.

4. If you are not able to incorporate synchronous activities into your pedagogy, there are still effective approaches for guiding students through a lesson. Give students explicit instructions for the work to be done in a class period. Then, use things like messaging apps to prompt and guide them through the work: “Here’s what you should be doing now.” Help them understand that their school days are continuing—they’re just applying themselves in a different environment.

Tips summarized from a discussion with Professor Martin Schedlbauer from Northeastern University’s Khoury College. Professor Schedlbauer has been practicing remote instruction since 1999. In light of COVID-19, he is offering his first-hand insight to educators at all levels who are grappling with how to effectively engage with their students from a distance. To review Professor Schedlbauer’s advice, please visit this link.

Watch the video on YouTube.