# Nethra Vidyalaya Update

April 2020 – September 2020

*Jai Srimannarayana*

**NETHRA VIDYALAYA**

School for Blind

(A unit of Jeeyar Educational Trust at **VARIJA**)

**FOUNDER :** H H Sri Sri Sri Tridandi Chinna Srimannarayana Ramanuja Jeeyar Swamiji

# School status

- As per Government of India, all the schools in India were closed on 19th March, 2020 including Nethra Vidyalaya school for blind.
- All the parents came to school on that day and took their children to their homes.
- Gave instructions to all the students about social distancing and cleanliness.
- Gave masks to the students
- Gave immunity boosters in ayurvedic medicine to all the students
- The in-person 9th and 10th grades classes are supposed to start from Nov 2nd per current plan

# Remote teaching Grades 1-10

- Teachers prepare lessons based on syllabus of the grades and also individual capabilities of the kids
- They write down everything on a piece of paper
- They take pictures of the lessons and send to the phones of the student’s parents or whoever is the contact person
- In addition to the above techniques the teachers also use Google meet and conference calls for 4-5 kids in the same grade level for teaching
- Teachers teach all subjects (daily one subject).
- Timetable given for the entire week on Sun and each class is 1.30 hr.
- Give notes via SMS
- The students listen to the lesson like General Knowledge bits and Math and other subjects using the phones of their parents or whoever is  the contact person
- Students record their answers for any tests and homework and send to their teacher’s phone before the end of the day
- Teachers grade the students based on the answers received via recorded messages
- For all the grade levels the teachers listen to the recorded messages and give the kids feedback when required
- Teachers maintain the report of each and every student and track everyday who is/is not responding to the classes
- Teachers are available 24X7

# Academic year 2019-20

- All the kids in Grade I to Grade IX were promoted to the next grade based on the previous exams earlier in the school year as instructed by the state government at the end of April
- The teachers focused on 10th grade students by giving them special classes in the morning and taking feedback and clarifying questions in the evening.
- For 10th grade the exams were postponed and finally on July 8th the government declared that the exams were cancelled due to the pandemic and will grade the students based on their previous marks.
- Students had summer vacation till June 12th

# Academic year 2020-21

- Started on July 1st
- All classes for all grade levels are online currently
- There is no student  on the school premises now
- Government said no exams for grades 1-8 and exams for 9th and 10th grades will be decided in the future
- Government also mentioned the syllabus would change but nothing has happened so they are using old syllabus for now
- 50% of the teachers have started going to the school from Sept 21st in case students need help
- Teachers alternate being on the campus
- So far 2-3 students came along with their parents and Math was taught to them
- Exams are based on the lessons taught and questions are sent to the students who will record via phone and send back the recorded messages to the teachers
- 50% students attend online classes, 40% attend classes via a telephone calls and 10% do not attend.
- Students will be graded based on participation but per government mandate everyone will have to be promoted.

# Assessment (Slip test)

- In mid August they conducted slip tests for all the classes to know their ability.
- Slip test means a small revision test. For every 15 days we will keep this test.
- Faced many challenges in explaining the paper and getting the answers from them.

sample

**Jai Srimannarayana!**
**Nethra Vidyalaya, JET**
**Assessment ( or ) Slip Test – 1**
**Class - VIII**
**Sub: Computer Science.**
**Name:** **Max. Marks: 20**

**I. Fill in the blanks.** **8M**

1. ---------is mainly used to play games on the computer.
2.-------- is used to speak with others on internet while chatting.
3. The devices which guide in displaying an delivering the result are known as-------.
4. ----------converts paper images into digital or electronic image.
5. The example of CUI is---------.
6. Example of GUI is---------.
7. The example of presentation software is
8. More than one person can work at a time with a ----------operating system.

**II. Answer the following questions. 4×3=12M**

1. What do you understand by IPO cycle?
2. Name three types of scanners.
3. What does GUI and CUI stand for?
4. Name two types of software with examples.

# Challenges with technology

- **Equipment**
  - Since most of our students are from low income group they don’t have android mobiles for online classes.
  - Only 50% of the students have android phones
  - Asking the parents to buy a normal phones instead of android phone if possible
  - Some parents don’t know how to operate mobile and hence faced many problems in teaching them how to operate one
- **Phone Signal**
  - Most of our students live in remote areas where they don’t get proper signal.
  - 10% of our students are from tribal areas and they don't get signal there.
  - They are instructed  to call when ever they get signal or when they go to area where there is signal and  for those students individual classes are provided

# Challenges with remote teaching

- As most of the parents are not educated
  - They are unable to understand the instructions for operating the Google meet online class.
  - Have to depend on educated neighbors or others for passing on the notes/lesson plans to the students
  - Need to teach them how to login to the class, how to mute and unmute etc.
- Parents are instructed to be with the kids when the classes are ongoing since students cannot focus for long but not all of them have the time since they are working on the farms or other jobs
- Since students are visually challenged so they have to rely on others for operating the Google Meet classes
- Only 50% students are attending the classes.
- Teachers are calling students and asking them to join classes.
- Sometimes kids will give some contact numbers of their relatives who have phones and  teachers have to pass the information through them and trust that the information is passed to the students
- If students or parents or neighbors do not have phones then there is nothing the teachers can do. The hope is they try to get neighbors phone to attend the classes. There are 10-15 kids who are not in contact today

# General school update

- Due to pandemic they did not get funds like last year
- Since no students so no sponsorship for them or their food.
- The teachers are getting funded by the Swamiji's devotees and that is how the salaries are paid.
- All the cooks, night watchman and other attendants are being paid during pandemic
- Currently engaged in developing the garden and growing vegetables.
- No kids or teachers have tested positive.
- Only one attendant tested positive and recovered.

# Video of classes