

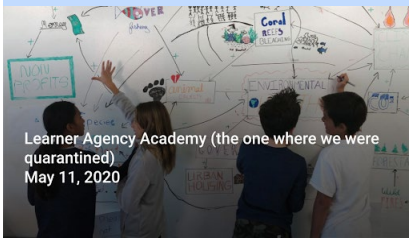
# Distance Learning Diaries



Here is a week in my distance learning life:

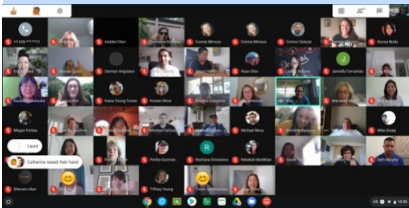
Lucretia Anton &  
Alex Worozaken

## Highlights



Learner Agency Academy (the one where we were quarantined)  
May 11, 2020

**Alex- Learner Agency Meeting:** Each month we meet with other AUSD educators and administrators along with our partners at Altitude Learning to work on creating systems to build a shared understanding of universally effective practices to remove barriers and promote agency for all learners. Today we discussed what we have learned during this period of emergency remote learning and how we might use what we have learned to move forward. It was really great to break out into small groups and identify possibilities and barriers as a team, so we can plan next steps and support others.



**Lucretia- First Avenue Faculty Meeting:** Every Monday I get to check in and collaborate with the First Avenue Middle School staff. Dr. Semeen Issa, the principal, took the time to welcome a new member to the staff and reviewed plans for the end of the year. It is always wonderful to hear how this team is coming together to support one another and connect with their families.

## What new things did you try today?

**Lucretia -** I was really excited to try breakout rooms for the first time during our video call today. It allowed for everyone to have an opportunity to share their voice that wouldn't have had the chance to share in the larger group. It also made me start to think about how I can help support educators in our district to use this tool with their students. Would some learners benefit from smaller group instruction? What types of topics would be beneficial to review in this way? I may not have the answers, but I am definitely excited to explore the possibilities.

## What did you do today?

**Alex -** Today was all about making connections with two separate groups that I appreciate and work closely with. My first meeting of the day was my weekly coaches meeting. This team is very important to me and we depend on each other very much. We work in the same office at the district and would see each other regularly. Now that we are away from our office, it's nice to connect with each other as often as we can.

## What went well today?

**Lucretia -** Today was a really busy but good day. It was nice to participate in multiple meetings and connect with others. Emergency remote learning is not going perfectly for anyone. But when we come together to listen and learn from each other, we can find pathways to help support our learners and community. It is during these meetings that I get to hear about people's successes and challenges. It is a time when I am inspired, and I feel blessed to be a part of the coaching team.

**Alex -** Today for my Learner Agency meeting I took my meeting outside and popped in the earbuds. Most of my meeting was spent listening in, but while I fed my children and watched them play outside I was able to manage both my personal and professional life. This certainly was a success for me today.

## What didn't go well today?

**Lucretia -** The only thing that was tough today was finishing everything on my to-do list. When I have back-to-back meetings all day long, I struggle with finishing the screencasts and projects I am currently working on. This is something I continue to try to schedule within my work day, but oftentimes it gets pushed to later in the afternoons or when my kids go to bed.

## Wellness Tip

When possible, take your video calls with you as you walk in your backyard or enjoy sitting outside. Each week, I meet with one of my bosses, Andrea Mendoza, and we have agreed to try to stay active while we review our latest projects and next steps. I have found that doing this helps to mix up the routine of my calls and brings us both joy.

## Highlights

**Emergency Distance Learning Tech Tips** Week of May 11 - 15th [bit.ly/EDLECHTIPS](http://bit.ly/EDLECHTIPS)

<b>Tools for You</b> Click on the video to learn about how we updated our How to Share Site from Google Docs, Sheets, Slides, and Forms.	<b>Teacher Favorites</b> Travel with you students! Create your own virtual Flip Teacher Project!	<b>Most Requested</b> Video Call Activities to End The Year with some Fun!
<b>#YOU Matter</b> Looking for ideas for health and wellness for you & your students? Click on the Choice Board!	<b>Elementary Report Card HACK</b> All in progress! Please check back for this insider's all-in-one simple click!	<b>AHS Emergency Guided Distance Learning Grant</b> If you have discovered any resources such as a grant, etc. technology or other opportunities that will help you connect remotely with your students, we have grant available to help. You can submit a Grant request by clicking on the link above.

Questions? Contact Lucretia at [lanora@ausd.net](mailto:lanora@ausd.net) or check out our [AHS TECH Website for Teachers](https://www.ausd.net/teachers) at [bit.ly/AHSTECH](http://bit.ly/AHSTECH)

**Staying Connected**

<b>COD Desk</b>  <b>Hours</b> Meds - Fri 7:30 - 11:30 am	<b>AHS Website</b> <a href="http://ahs.ausd.net">ahs.ausd.net</a>  • Parent/Student Portal • Student & Families • Counselor Website
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**Alex - Math Pathways:** As an instructional math and science coach, one of my responsibilities is to service incoming 6th graders district-wide with their math recommendations. This week has been very important as we have scheduled to release family letters (via email) regarding next steps in participation for potential math acceleration in our math pathways program for the 2020-2021 school year. Some of our materials were already digital (i.e., registration, website, etc.) but now all our materials have become digital. What has become most important in all of this has been access to various forms of communication and making sure to achieve them in one place for future reference. For that reason, I have developed our Math 6 website for both parents and students. Also, our once in-person family information night has been converted to a screencast. I am able to share with families and archive all the materials on the math 6 website. Communication via our Math 6 website and email has become more important than ever.

**Lucretia- Innovation Meeting:** As Innovation Coaches TK-12, Jenn Meikle and I have the opportunity to work with Ed Services and Technology and Information Service Departments. Every Tuesday morning, we touch base with our fearless

leader, Scott Bramley, and discuss how we can continue to support our community with technology resources during emergency remote learning. Our main focus throughout the last couple of weeks has been developing a website that can house all of the technology resources for our teachers and families. Today the focus was on tips and tricks for report cards. Our brainstorming discussion allowed us to develop quick step-by-step instructions we can send out today.

**8th Grade Transition Parent Meeting:** Starting high school can be a big change for teens and parents alike. There is a wider range of classes and activities to choose from. One of the highlights of today was collaborating with counselors and administrators to provide a virtual parent meeting to discuss helpful tips for creating a smooth transition to high school.

## What new things did you try today?

**Lucretia -** It was great to hear tons of positive feedback regarding all of the resources that were created and sent out to our community of educators today. For me this is the best gift of all because empowering my colleagues with the opportunity to explore some of the available resources will allow them to imagine the possibilities for their learners and define pathways that can support their learners' strengths and needs.

## Wellness Tip

**Lucretia -** Take time to cook or bake together with your family. Tonight we made pizzas as a family. It was great to get the kids involved and learn new skills in the kitchen. We had fun preparing dinner, tasting our ingredients, and enjoying the final product.



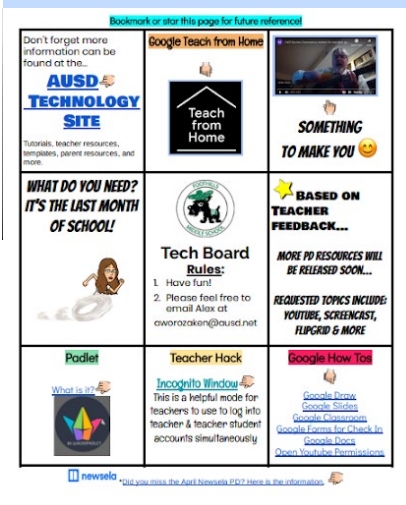
## What's on your mind for tomorrow?

**Alex -** Putting together the Math Pathways materials is a lot of work but worth the time to service each individual incoming 6th grade student. I like to compare it to a capstone project that will be shared with our entire 5th grade community (families, teachers, etc). Tomorrow is the big day where all forms of communication will be delivered, and students will begin to register for our summer program.

Get outside and go for a walk. My family and I walk almost every day and yes, I am 5 months pregnant.



## Highlights



### Alex - Wednesday Coach's Check-in

My morning is dedicated to communicating with teachers who I work with regularly. I work closely with various teacher groups ranging from TK-12. For me, I value the opportunity to continue relationships and carry on continuous communication and support to our teachers. Included with my email is a tech board I have created to provide updates, new content, and additional information regarding topics of interest. Communication with teachers has varied from Google Meets to phone calls, from texting to emailing.

Lucretia- Camino Grove Grade Level Meetings: I have had the privilege of working with Danae Popovich and her staff at Camino Grove during emergency remote learning. She has found that meeting with her staff by grade-level teams has helped her stay closely connected and has provided her the ability to personalize support for her educators. During the meetings, I am able to hear the latest updates and work alongside Mrs. Popovich and each team. Grade-level meetings have been instrumental in guiding my work and the resources that are created for teachers.

## What new things did you try today?

Lucretia - I was able to try a new whiteboard program today that a teacher found. It was fun to play and learn the tool together. I signed in as a student, so she could see what would happen as she pushed content to her students. I can't wait to hear how it goes and also now "pay it forward" and share this tool with others.

## What's on your mind for tomorrow?

Alex -After spending much of my day connecting with fellow teachers, I ask myself: "How can I continue to support teachers when the end of the school year is quickly approaching?" There are only a few weeks left of school, but still so much to accomplish.

## What went well today?

Lucretia - Meeting with educators in small groups and 1:1 gives me the opportunity to truly empathize with the challenges they are facing during this new shift in education. As I listen and reflect alongside them, we begin to unravel the possibilities. We play to learn, push all the buttons, make mistakes, and laugh along the way.

Alex - The highlight for today was connecting with teachers. I miss being able to walk into a classroom and see smiling faces from both students and teachers. Sustaining relationships is so important, especially now. For me, hearing back from teachers from my check in emails is always great. I love hearing how they are keeping up day to day, learning from them, and knowing that they can count on me for any kind of support.

## Wellness Tip

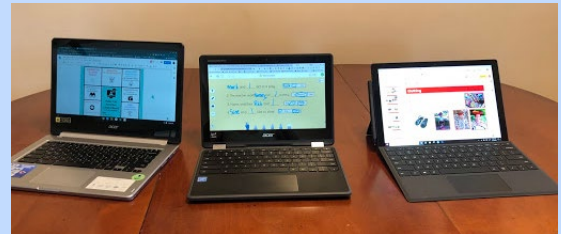
Lucretia - One blessing my family has gained while being quarantined is more time together. The hour we used to spend in the car commuting is now being used for quality time as a family. In order to build in choice for our kids, we allow them to pick the activity we do together. Some nights it's a board game, hide and seek, or an outside activity. Tonight, my kids wanted to go on a scooter ride around the block and play different games outside. These activities give us the necessary exercise we need to keep our bodies healthy while taking the time to build memories.



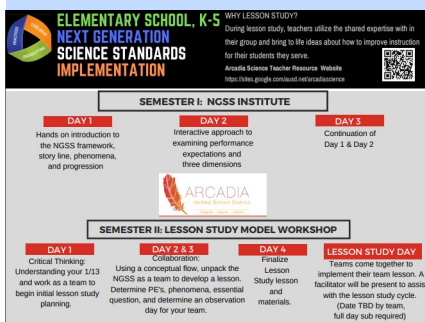
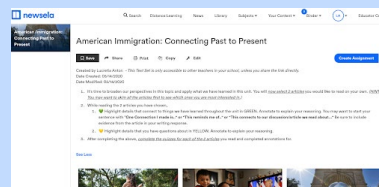
(\*Please note we took off our masks for this picture)

Highlights

**Lucretia - Life As a Parent During Emergency Remote Learning:** Our day kicks off at the breakfast table where my husband and I quickly review our most important calendar appointments. Maybe it's one-on-one Zoom meetings for me in the morning and facetime piano lessons for our daughter in the afternoon. Whatever it is, we can then start mapping out our less critical events around those critical events. I realize our planning style may seem a bit last-minute, but if there is anything Emergency Remote Learning has taught us it's that it's exactly that in nature. Interruptions and unforeseen calls to duty will happen, so planning too far ahead borders on becoming a pointless exercise. We are better at completing goals if we allow flexibility to adjust on the fly.



**Screencasts for Most Requested Tips:** Thursdays and Fridays are when I try to block out time for building screencasts and tutorials because the beginning of the week is jam-packed. Today, I worked on adding resources to a [Video Call Activities to End the Year](#) with and tutorials on video editing.



**Alex - Elementary School NGSS Lesson Study Review** As the NGSS instructional coach for our school district, it is my responsibility to implement the NGSS professional development plan. It is that time of year where I review the teacher feedback form provided by this year's lesson study professional development that took place from January-March 2020. Part of the review is also recognizing and celebrating teacher success in completing their lesson study cycle. As a result of the school closures, I will be holding off on hosting an after-school celebration. Instead, I am working on creating a video montage recognizing the cohort of participant teachers. Although we can not be physically together, I still want to recognize and show gratitude for all who participated.

The second part of my day was spent planning for next year. I began the process of putting together a plan for the coming school year. As we have mentioned already, communication is key and in this case I have created an infographic to provide a timeline description of the 2020 -2021 NGSS professional development plan that will take place for district's elementary school teachers.

What went well today?

**Lucretia -** Reflecting on my coaching meetings today, I have realized that remote learning has strengthened my ability to guide others through tasks. Today I tried something new, and instead of sharing my screen during the call, I had my colleague share her screen and walked her step by step through creating her lesson using a specific tool. I learned I had to be really specific with my words, but in the end she had a project she could use tomorrow and now has the experience of doing it.

**Alex -** I decided to work outside for a little bit. Changing my work station and getting some fresh air and some vitamin D really helped with my mood. It was also a win-win because my children were able to play outside in the meantime.



And the garden. There is something about getting your hands dirty in soil that can be so very relaxing. I am fortunate enough to enjoy gardening with my Quran-Team.

What didn't go well today?

**Lucretia -** My daughter's class had a video call scheduled for 1:00 pm but we wrote it down in our schedule for 1:30 pm by accident, so we missed the call. My daughter took the mix-up well, but it breaks my heart that it occurred. Managing four different schedules definitely catches up with us and mistakes happen. We definitely all learned a life lesson today, but it was a good reminder that we are human and how the lessons we learn from our mistakes help us continue to grow and find what works for us as a family.

## What's on your mind for tomorrow?

Lucretia - Meeting with educators in small groups and 1:1 gives me the opportunity to truly empathize with the challenges they are facing during this new shift in education. As I listen and reflect alongside them, we begin to unravel the possibilities. We play to learn, push all the buttons, make mistakes, and laugh along the way.

## Wellness Tip

Lucretia - Today my daughter and son had different things in mind for our daily family activities. So, we got the benefit of trying two activities. Tonight we had fun following an [Art for Kids Hub](#) tutorial on how to draw Ariel, and we baked banana bread. We are definitely headed to bed exhausted, but our hearts were happy.



# Friday: Week Wrap-Up

## Highlights

Lucretia & Alex Meeting: Fridays are for collaboration, reflection, and growth. We sit right next to each other in our office and typically will have lunch together when our schedules permit. Throughout the week we rely very much on each other for feedback and guidance. However, since distance learning has occurred, receiving feedback and collaboration time has been limited and challenging. Therefore, setting up a time to connect and debrief on our practices has helped to sustain our best practices while distance learning continues.

## What went well today?

Lucretia - I'm ready to enjoy a relaxing weekend.

## Wellness Tip

Lucretia - The kids and I took a blanket to sit on the grass in the backyard. We brought books to read and special snacks to enjoy. I even brought a special book called [Together Apart](#) that my colleague, Nikki Montoya, wrote. It was illustrated by an AUSD student, Natalia Nagy. Together Apart brought smiles to my children's faces and provided an opportunity to talk about our feelings. I would definitely recommend reading it.

Alex - Listen to music and even have a dance party. Our afternoon clean-up time has become a music and dance session. The music varies from different genres, but certainly is always a pick-me-up.