

Hello Benchmark Community,

Our goal and priority is to support you as we all navigate together the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) situation. We know you are managing a tremendous amount related to school closures and managing and supporting students remotely. We are currently creating distance learning activities aligned to the curriculum that teachers can assign during school closures. It's our sincere goal to tap into the collective wisdom of the Benchmark community. We've got you!

What You Can Count On From Our Team

Every week, we will provide you with a series of daily meaningful learning tasks for each grade using *Benchmark Advance/Adelante* online resources. We will focus on reading, writing, phonics/word study and reflection/extensions, starting with Unit 7, Week 1.

We have started with simple tasks that can be quickly assigned by you and easily done by your students. There is a supporting video for each task you'll need to do on Benchmark Universe. Even if you're not that familiar with using Benchmark Universe, you'll have step-by-step videos to walk you through the specific activity for your grade!

For each grade, you will be given access to the following:

- Daily Activities (Teacher Directions) – Read, Respond, Write
- Tutorial videos

Additionally, we've set up a new [Benchmark Advance Facebook Group](#) as a place you can go to and ask questions, share ideas, and find all of the content related to these activities.

Let's Get Started!

Follow these simple steps:

1. Access the **Daily Activities** (via [Facebook Group](#) or [Benchmark Universe Help Page](#) or [Directly on Google Drive](#))

Note About Google Drive: You will have read-only access to these files. To make changes, save a copy or download the file.

2. **Log in to Benchmark Universe** and access the Benchmark Advance or Adelante library
3. **Customize text** by inserting response activities through sticky notes so students can reflect on their thinking as well as adding pages for independent writing activities.

Note: For students in K-1, we recognize they may not be able to read these questions. We encourage you to inform parents/guardians to read the sticky note questions to their child and discuss their answers. If you are recording the lessons, you will want to read the questions on the sticky notes aloud.

4. **Assign customized book** to all students through assignments.

What Do You Need to Know?

Below are links to key tutorial videos you'll want watch before getting started with these activities:

- How to customize a text with activities – [Grade K](#), [Grade 1](#)
- How to assign online resources and/or customized text – [Grade K](#), [Grade 1](#)
- How you might deliver Day 1 Activities – [Grade K](#), [Grade 1](#) (Spanish – [Gr. K](#), [Gr. 1](#))
- How you might deliver Day 2 Activities – [Grade 1](#) (Spanish – [Gr. 1](#))
- How you might deliver Day 3 Activities – [Grade K](#) (Spanish – [Gr. K](#))

What Do Your Students Need to Know?

The following video walks you through the process from the student perspective:

- [How to access activities assigned to you in Benchmark Universe](#)

To allow your students to view this video, please copy and paste the following link into an e-mail or another communication so the student or parent/guardian can access the video.

<https://benchmark.wistia.com/medias/1lm1dlrium>

What About Students That Need English Language Support?

The following document provides ways to scaffold activities for English Learners:

- [Easy Scaffolds for Grades K-2](#)

Ongoing Support: We've Got You!

Stay tuned for more communication from your trusted Benchmark Education team! This is uncharted territory for all of us — the Benchmark Development team, your students and you! As we move forward, we will be learning together how best to roll out these tasks and support students. We will continue to work together as a team to develop more sophisticated tasks for you to assign to your students.

Sincerely,

The Benchmark Education Team