

# George Kelly School: 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Grade Tower

Teacher	7 <sup>th</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup> Grade- Ms. Clary
Office Hours By email	By email- <a href="mailto:dclary@tusd.net">dclary@tusd.net</a> Monday - Friday from 8:00 am – 3:30 pm <i>*Emails received outside of these hours will be answered at teacher availability.</i> <b>Do NOT wait until due date to complete assignments!</b> CONTACT a FRIEND for assignment HELP too!
By chat or video	Mon. thru Fri. from 3 pm to 3:30 pm <b>Go to Mrs. Basacker padlet, click on 'Distance Learning' page for ZOOM</b>
Digital Access to Curriculum	<a href="https://padlet.com/kbasacker">padlet.com/kbasacker</a>

4/24/2020 pick-up materials

5/8/2020 pick-up materials and drop-off Weeks 1 and 2 Assignments

5/15/2020 drop-off Weeks 3 and 4 Assignments

This Curriculum has been developed to support and reinforce the Core- ELA and Social Studies Middle School Standards:

## Assignments:

1. Pick two articles, two videos, or a mix to read

<https://learningenglish.voanews.com/p/5610.html>

2. Write a summary on each one

## Formatting ELA/Social Studies Assignments:

1. Typed/ or written in **INK** must include the following:
  - a. Name
  - b. Teacher's name
  - c. Week# and date range
  - d. Articles Summaries – Write a half page summary on your articles or videos
  - e. Complete sentences in your summaries

## Submitting Required Assignments:

1. Best option: Complete on-line through:
  - a. Share through Office 365
  - b. Attach document and send through e-mail
  - c. Scan OR take a photo of completed assignment and attach to e-mail (written assignments MUST be completed legibly in **INK**)
2. Physical drop-off to school: **Fri. May 8 and Fri. May 15 \*Refer to GKE Drop-off Schedule**

# Coronavirus Survivor: 'In My Blood There May Be Answers'

April 06, 2020



Tiffany Pinckney poses for a portrait in the Harlem neighborhood of New York on April 1, 2020. Pinckney became one of the nation's first donors of "convalescent plasma." (AP Photo/Marshall Ritzell)

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Tiffany Pinckney remembers the fear she felt when the coronavirus she suffered from made it very difficult to breathe. So, when she recovered, the New York City woman became one of the country's first survivors to donate her blood. That blood may now help other seriously ill patients.

Pinckney told the Associated Press it was “**overwhelming** to know that in my blood, there may be answers.”

Doctors around the world are reusing a treatment for infections that is about 100 years old: giving blood **plasma** from recovered patients to sick ones. Plasma is the yellowish liquid part of blood.

The blood from former patients is filled with **immune** molecules that can help survivors defeat COVID-19, the disease caused by the coronavirus.

Such donations have already been made by recovered patients in Houston and New York. Now, hospitals and blood centers in other areas are preparing for possibly hundreds of survivors to donate.

Doctors do not know if the treatments will be successful.

This is a “call to action,” said Dr. David Reich. He is president of New York’s Mount Sinai Hospital, which collected Tiffany Pinckney’s blood.

“People feel very helpless in the face of this disease. And this is one thing that people can do to help their fellow human beings,” he added.

The treatment was used during the 1918 flu **pandemic**. It was also used to fight several other infections before modern medicine found new anti-viral drugs.

During an infection, the body starts making **antibodies** designed to attack the **germ** that has invaded the body. These antibodies stay for months or years in the blood plasma of survivors.

This treatment can be used while scientists search for a vaccine or a new drug.

It is a temporary measure that can be put into place quickly, said Dr. Jeffrey Henderson. He is from Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. He is putting together a study about the treatment.

This “is not a cure...but rather it is a way to reduce the severity of illness,” Henderson said. Doctors don’t know how long survivors’ antibodies will stay in their plasma.

Last week, the Food and Drug Administration told hospitals how to request emergency permission to use the treatment. Houston Methodist Hospital and Mount Sinai both asked immediately.

The public also answered requests from hospitals for donations.

Michigan State University had more than 1,000 people sign up for the National COVID-19 **Convalescent** Plasma Project. The group was formed by hospitals hoping to increase plasma donation for research.

Survivors who want to donate blood cannot just walk into a blood center. They must prove the virus is gone, and that they have been free of **symptoms** for several weeks. They also must have a high level of antibodies in their blood.

Chinese doctors reported last week that five people treated with plasma from former patients all began to improve a week later. But they also received other treatments, so there is no way to know if the plasma caused the improvements.

In a North Carolina factory, Spanish chemical company Grifols is trying to recreate a version of donor plasma that is filled with a large amount of antibodies.

Researchers at the National Institutes of Health are measuring survivors' antibody levels to learn how strong a vaccine must be. Other scientists, including some at Beijing's Tsinghua University, are trying to find out which antibodies are the strongest. They hope to copy those antibodies in a lab and create a drug treatment.

But donations from people like Pinckney could be used as fast as medical centers can process the blood. When Mount Sinai asked her to donate, she agreed immediately.

It's "hope for someone else," she said.

I'm Jill Robbins.

*The Associated Press reported this story. Susan Shand adapted it for Learning English. Bryan Lynn was the editor.*

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## Words in This Story

**overwhelm** – *v.* to effect someone very strongly

**immune** – *adj.* not capable of being affected by a disease

**plasma** – *n.* the watery part of blood

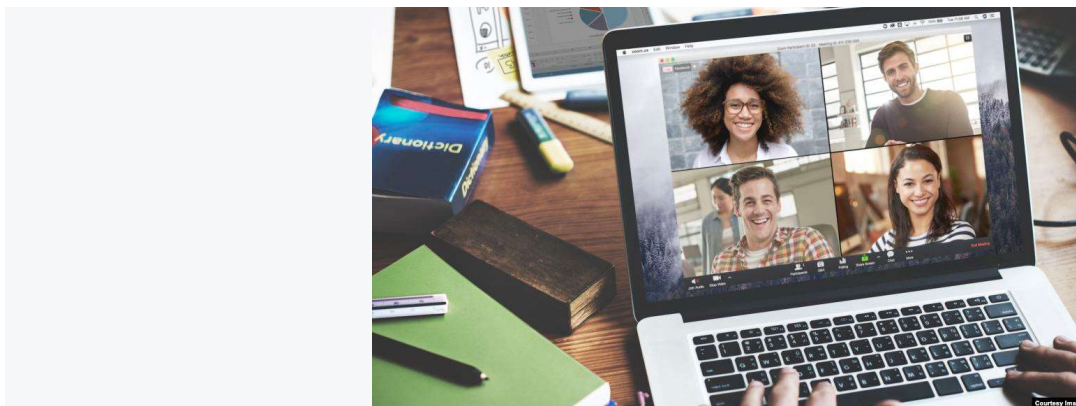
**pandemic**– *n.* a worldwide spread of disease

**antibody**– *n.* a substance produced in blood to fight disease

# Top Video Calling Apps for Learning, Work, Social Connections

March 25, 2020

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One of the most popular video calling services for people working remotely is Zoom Cloud Meeting, which has many good features for both education and business. (Photo: Zoom)

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As people stay home to help stop the spread of the new coronavirus, many are using video calling services to stay connected to the outside world.

Today we examine some of the top technology tools designed to help improve communication for learning, work and social life.

One of the most widely used video calling services is [Zoom Cloud Meeting](#), which has many good **features** for both education and business. Zoom is [currently listed](#) as the most popular free app in Apple's App Store by industry data reporting company App Annie. Downloads of the app have risen sharply in recent weeks, as shutdowns of businesses, schools and transportation grew.

Zoom can be used on a computer or mobile device to hold high quality one-on-one video or voice calls or video conferences involving groups.

The company offers a “basic” free service that permits unlimited one-on-one meetings and group meetings of up to 100 people. The basic service limits group meetings to 40 minutes. Zoom also offers private messaging between users and groups, **screen** sharing and the ability to record meetings.



In this March 19, 2020, photo, a physical education teacher talks with his students during an online class at Nguyen Tat Thanh school in Hanoi, Vietnam.

Zoom provides suggestions [on its website](#) for people seeking to use the service to improve work activities at home, as well as educational ideas for teachers, schools and parents. The app receives high ratings in the Apple and Google Play stores for video quality and technical **reliability**.

Another very similar service is Microsoft-owned [Skype](#), which began in 2003 as an early example of free voice, video and messaging technology over the internet. Skype can be used on computers or mobile devices to make high quality video and voice calls for individuals and groups. It also includes messaging, personal and group **chat** and screen sharing.

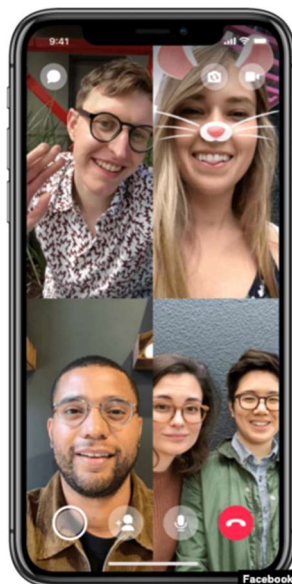


The service is free for Skype-to-Skype calls worldwide. But users have to pay for some services, such as calling a landline or mobile phone or sending text messages.

One of the most popular services for remote workers is Slack, which offers video and voice calls and messaging. The free version permits one-on-one video and voice calls between team members. There is a cost for calls involving additional team members and other services. Slack also offers [special programs](#) to support educational organizations and student groups.

Other popular video calling services for home-based workers include [Microsoft Teams](#) and Google's [Hangouts Meet](#). Both offer a series of powerful tools to link employees to company systems and co-workers. The downside of these services is that they are designed to be used with other Microsoft and Google products.

On the personal side, Facebook Messenger has become one of the most popular apps for video calls by users of the social media service. In fact, Facebook data shared with the news website *CNET* [showed](#) a 70 percent jump last week in people using Messenger to take part in group video calls.



Facebook Messenger has become one of the most popular apps for video calls by users of the social media service since the outbreak of the new coronavirus. (Facebook)

In addition, the number of voice and video calls on Facebook's WhatsApp service more than doubled year-over-year in places most affected by the virus, *CNET* reported. Groups of up to four people can connect through video on WhatsApp.

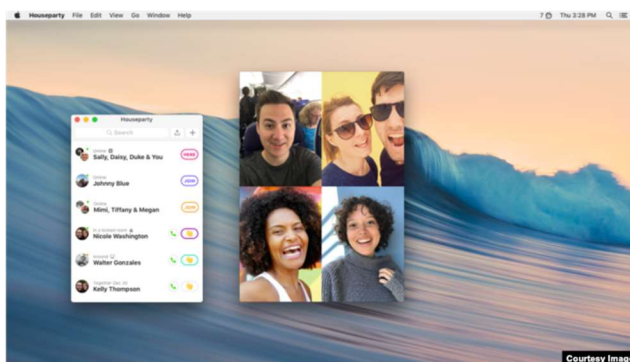
Apple's [FaceTime](#) is another way to easily connect with friends and family, as long as all users have Apple devices. Video calls can be one-on-one or involve groups of up to 32 people.

For Android device users, there is [Google Duo](#), which can also be used to hold individual and group video calls.

For more of a group “video party” experience, there is an app called [Houseparty](#), which is available for both Apple and Android users, as well as on computers. Houseparty is not new, but downloads of the app recently saw a huge increase to about 210,000 per day, the French Press Agency AFP reported.

Houseparty has become popular with homebound people who are used to going out with family and friends to restaurants and bars. The app brings people together to socialize as if they were out together - sometimes with alcohol, music, dancing and games.

One user of the app based in the United States, Amaya Howard, told AFP the video meetup is one way to **relax** and take a break from non-stop coronavirus news – at least temporarily.



The Houseparty app brings people together to socialize as if they were out together at restaurants and bars. (Photo: Houseparty)

"The idea came about of doing a happy hour - we just get on the app and just drink wine and talk," Howard said. "Mostly it's about a lot of **randomness**, but **occasionally** someone will say, 'I just can't believe how crazy what's going on is.'"

I'm Bryan Lynn.

*Bryan Lynn wrote this story for VOA Learning English, based on online sources. Hai Do was the editor.*

*We want to hear from you. Write to us in the Comments section, and [visit our Facebook page](#).*

## Quiz - Top Video Calling Apps for Learning, Work and Social Connections





Start the Quiz to find out  
[Start Quiz](#)

## Words in This Story

**feature** – *n.* a typical quality or important part of something

**screen** – *n.* a flat area on an electronic device where images can be seen

**reliability** – *n.* ability to be trusted or believed

**chat** – *n.* an informal talk with someone

**relax** – *v.* to become happy and comfortable because nothing is worrying you

**random** – *adj.* done or chosen without any plan or system

**occasionally** – *adv.* not happening often

