



Motivate Collaborate Support Develop

930 Colorado Avenue ~ Montrose, Colorado 81401 mailing
PO Box 10,000 ~ Montrose, Colorado 81402 billing
970.249.7726 phone ~ 970.249.7173 fax ~ www.mcscd.org/web

September 14, 2020

Since its inception, Montrose County School District (MCSD) has always sought to instill in our students the character traits necessary to continue onto successful colleges and careers and teach children that even in difficult times we can work together for the good of ourselves and our community.

In the past we have focused on traits such as resilience, flexibility, and the ability to adapt to changing circumstances. The global coronavirus pandemic has only made this more important.

As such, we have heard from our middle school online parents that the instructional model we initially offered needed improvement; this letter and appendices will help meet that need.

Included within, you will find updated protocols and detailed changes on the *MCSD Learn from Home* program for middle school students. These include:

- A Flowchart of staff to contact whenever you have specific questions and a timetable for when you can expect an answer. No longer will you wonder who to email or call or how long it will take to receive an answer.
- A re-definition of online teacher responsibilities. We understand that teacher caseloads needed more equity; MCSD Learn from Home teachers will now be “Facilitators,” of curriculum and software, able to aid families in navigating online learning rather than only content experts. In a later appendix to this letter, you’ll find information about the “Buzz” platform that will make this possible.
- Any and all changes to your student’s schedule or online learning experience will be explained with an accompanying rationale.
- Using our revised online model, teacher caseloads should be much smaller, meaning the staff-to-student-ratio should be lower than or equal to that of traditional in person instruction, and students should have more access to direct instruction and live virtual connection with even more MCSD educators.
- Your child's schedule this week will be slightly adjusted for staff to have time to prepare for this new model.

As a committed STEM district, we understand that innovation is a vital characteristic to 21st Century learning and that as changes arise due to COVID-19, we must adapt accordingly.

Thank you for your patience and dedication to your child’s educational growth as we share this journey together.

Sincerely,

Montrose County School District RE-1J