



Wednesday, April 1, 2020

Dear Montrose & Olathe Students, Families and Staff,

We miss seeing you at school!

The school closure and social distancing has disrupted our daily lives in so many ways. We hope that you are all well and staying healthy! This document is a lengthy communication detailing the remote learning plan. We have tried to organize it in a way that is easy to understand, but we recognize that there are so many questions that need to be answered.

Montrose & Olathe Schools will be closed until at least April 30. The exact return date is unknown at this time.

This communication covers the following topics:

1. Meal Distribution During Spring Break
2. Remote Learning Plan Snapshot
3. Remote Learning Plan Details

### Meal Distribution During Spring Break

Earlier communications mentioned that meals would not be available during Spring Break. Since then, the District has decided to continue serving meals just as it is doing now. Below is the schedule as a reminder:

## MCSD Food and Nutrition Services School Closure Bagged Meal Service

**Monday-Friday ~ 11am to 1pm**

*Lunch for that day and breakfast for the following day in each bag, available to all students, free of charge.*

**Find your child's school below and pickup at designated location (drive through/walk-up).**

Designated Meal Pick-Up Location	School
Centennial Middle School	Cottonwood, Johnson, Centennial
Northside Elementary School	Northside, Oak Grove, Peak Academy
Montrose High School	Early Childhood Center, Columbine, Pomona, Vista Charter, Montrose High School
Olathe Elementary School	Olathe Elementary & Olathe Middle/High

**In an effort to streamline traffic flow and ensure we have adequate supplies, SCHOOLS LISTED SHOULD PICK UP THEIR MEALS AT THESE DESIGNATED SITES.**

## Remote Learning Snapshot

The snapshot below offers an overview of MCSD's remote learning plan. For more detailed information, please refer to the Remote Learning Plan Details on the following pages.

Timeline			
<b>March 30-April 3</b> Teacher Prep No New Assignments	<b>April 6-10</b> SPRING BREAK	<b>April 13, 14, 15</b> Elementary Packet Pick-Up iPad distribution for 3rd-5th grade	<b>Beginning April 13</b> Remote Learning For All Students

### Expectations for ALL grade levels

3

**Number of hours students should work per day on academics**

+

**Device-Free...  
Physical Activity, Art, Music, Games!**

Monday-Thursday

School Work will be assigned Mondays-Thursdays.

**NO ASSIGNMENTS OR SCHOOL TASKS for students on Fridays**

GRADING	<b>ELEMENTARY (Grades K-5)</b> NEW packets will be used for grading. Pick up your packet between April 13-15 at your school	<b>SECONDARY (Grades 6-12)</b> Students will participate in courses via the online environment or through other means of communication with teacher(s). The teacher(s) will indicate when an assignment will be used for a grade.
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K-5	Grades 6-12
<b>Teacher-Directed Connections</b>	We encourage <b>all</b> teachers to make personal connections with students through phone calls, video conferencing (Like Zoom and Google Hangout), and social media, and other virtual means (like sharing videos of lessons).
<b>Paper-Based Literacy &amp; Math</b>	<b>Teacher-led Online Curricula &amp; Instruction</b>
<b>Teacher-supported Online Literacy &amp; Math</b>	
4-week CKLA Kit 4-week Bridges Kit Amplify Reading Khan Academy	Google Classroom, teacher-created materials for all classes.
<b>Supplemental Materials</b>	Visit <a href="http://www.mcscd.org">www.mcscd.org</a> for online supplemental activities and resources.



**PreK - 5th Grade**  
Online Academic Resources



**Middle School**  
Online Academic Resources



**High School**  
Online Academic Resources



**English Learner Resources**

**PARENTS of 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students:** Please complete [this survey](#) (Spanish Survey) by Friday, April 10th.

## Remote Learning Plan Details

Montrose County School District has developed a remote learning plan so that our students can continue learning. This plan represents MCSD's commitment to making every effort to ensure that learning occurs with each student, every day.

Moving to remote learning is uncharted territory for MCSD. We know that we can count on each family to partner with us in this journey. We ask that you practice patience and grace as we make this transition. We have heard from many staff members that they miss their students, and all of us realize that this abrupt change to remote learning is a challenge for all of us.

We recognize that many families are still working out of the house, while some are at home. We have tried to provide educational materials to students that they can access and complete with little support from their parents. The intent with this plan is to put resources in the hands of our families and students so that learning and practice with academics is occurring. This is not meant to burden a family with overwhelming activities.

This message is meant to answer your questions and provide guidelines for student experiences during our time of remote learning.

Throughout school closures, MCSD teachers will provide students with instruction that is designed to build upon prior learning. Since schools closed, Phase 1 of this plan provided students with optional learning opportunities while the district investigated device and internet access.

Starting on April 13th, MCSD will enter Phase 2 of the Remote Learning Plan.

This plan will answer the following questions:

1. What types of learning opportunities are offered at each grade level?
2. Distribution of Materials & Devices
3. What if I don't have Internet/WiFi access at home?
4. What are the expectations of students, parents and teachers during this remote learning plan?
5. How much time should I expect to spend on remote learning?
6. What does attendance and grading look like during remote learning?
7. What supports are available for English Learners?
8. What supports are available for Special Education?
9. Where can families go for tech support?

### What types of learning opportunities are offered at each grade level?

The Phase 2 Remote Learning plan for each grade span is outlined here:

**ELEMENTARY:** The district will offer both online and offline learning opportunities for students.

Offline Learning will take place in the form of paper packets (4 weeks of Literacy and Math skills). These packets are meant to be completed and returned to your school the week of May 8th.

Online Learning will take place for students who have access to WiFi/Internet. These activities will supplement learning and be assigned to your child based on their learning trajectory. We highly encourage families to take advantage of the free or low cost internet options available in our area because the online learning options are tailored to each individual student, and they will provide students with opportunities to expand and grow their literacy and math skills.

**PARENTS of 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students:** Please complete [this survey](#) ([Spanish Survey](#)) by Friday, April 10th.

**SECONDARY:** All secondary students have a device, but not everyone has consistent access to WiFi. While all assignments will be posted in Google Classroom or another learning platform, no assignment will require streaming of content to complete. Students are expected to interact with their teachers to know what the assignments are and where to post them for a grade.

### **Distribution of Materials & Devices**

All elementary materials will be delivered in the same fashion as Phase 1. Each building will communicate the materials pick-up hours and location. The distribution of materials will occur on April 13, 14, and 15. If you have a child in 3rd, 4th or 5th grade, you have the option of requesting an iPad to take home.

Devices will be ready for pick up during the same time as paper-based materials. Families should ensure that they have signed the iPad User Agreement prior to picking up the device from school. ([English](#) / [Spanish](#))

All secondary materials will be delivered online via Google Classroom or similar platform. Students in grades 6-12 need to be checking the appropriate learning platform to stay connected and up-to-date with assignments and tasks.

### **What if I don't have Internet/WiFi access at home?**

Several Internet Service Providers in the area have offered little-to-no-cost options for Internet/WiFi access at home. Visit [www.mcsd.org](http://www.mcsd.org) for details. If none of those options work for you, be sure to contact your teachers for alternative methods in completing the learning for your course(s).

### **What are the expectations of students, parents and teachers during this remote learning plan?**

We encourage all members of the family to be involved in the learning process and understand that many families are in the process of rearranging their days to accommodate the changes that are occurring. During this transition to remote learning, please connect with your school if you or your child/ren are experiencing difficulties. You will continue to have access to counselors, support professionals, teachers, and administration.

Remote learning is not meant to create additional hardships for our families. Students will be able to complete their assignments each day at a time that is convenient for your family. There is not an expectation that students will be online for a full school day.

The transition to Phase 2 necessitates family and student engagement with schools and their teachers.

### **Students are expected to prepare for remote learning by:**

- Engaging in the learning activities that are being offered by the district, their teachers and school.
- Saving their usernames and passwords for the educational resources assigned by the district, their teachers and school.
- Organizing a functional workspace and calendar to manage their work and time.
- Completing daily assignments and possibly attending live video conferences. Communicate with your school/teacher to know when these will be happening.

### **Families are expected to prepare for remote learning by:**

#### **ELEMENTARY (grades K-5)**

- Picking up the paper-based packet and supplies from their elementary schools at the designated time.
- Grades 3-4-5: Arranging to pick up a device after signing the iPad user agreement. ([English](#) / [Spanish](#))
- **PARENTS of 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students:** Please complete [this survey](#) ([Spanish Survey](#)) by Friday, April 10th.

## **SECONDARY (grades 6-12)**

- Using a device to access Google Classroom and other programs as assigned by their school or teacher (Grades 6-12).
- Ensuring their secondary-aged student has access to the internet or cellular network in order to download and upload assignments. In the event this is not feasible, to communicate with the school to work through alternative ways of receiving and turning in lessons and assignments.

### **How much time should I expect to spend on remote learning?**

Elementary students in grades K-5 should expect to spend no more than 3 hours per day (Monday-Thursday) on Literacy and Math work.

Secondary students in grades 6-12 should expect to spend no more than 2 hours per week per course (or 30 minutes per day per course). On average, secondary students should expect to spend about 3 hours per day (Monday-Thursday) for all classes. This means that your teachers will limit their activities, instructions and learning to about half of what you would have completed in a typical class session. **It is each student's responsibility to attend and get help when needed.**

Fridays are set aside for students to get caught up on anything they missed and for teachers to prepare for the next week of learning. No assignments, tasks, video conferences, or phone calls will be scheduled on Fridays. Teachers will spend Friday by grading assignments and preparing for the following week's assignments and work.

In addition to academics, all students should exercise regularly, play games, and fill their time with things like puzzles, art, music, and STEM Activities. The [MCSD website](#) is continuously updated with other engaging activities as well!

### **What does attendance and grading look like during remote learning?**

**ATTENDANCE (K-12):** Elementary teachers will be connecting with students and families over the phone, through video conference calls, Class DoJo, SeeSaw, or other applications that they use. These moments will be used to track student engagement.

**ELEMENTARY grades:** The paper packets that you will pick up between April 13-15 will be used to assign grades when they are turned in at the end of the school year. If students take advantage of the online materials instead (or in addition to), this work will also be calculated as a grade. Grades will not be assigned until the end of the school year unless otherwise communicated.

**SECONDARY grades:** We recognize that while all secondary students have a device, not everyone has consistent access to the Internet. For this reason, we have encouraged teachers to assign tasks that require very little-to-no Internet to complete. This means that you may have to download and upload content, but that you will not need to stream content in order to complete an assignment.

Students should expect to participate in their courses via the online environment or through other means of communication with their teacher(s). The teacher(s) will indicate if an assignment will be used for a grade. Grades will be posted in IC when students complete an assignment. If a student fails to complete an assignment by the due date, the teacher will not mark a '0' until the end of the school year. \*\*

Teachers will also be holding virtual meetings, but these are not required as part of your grade unless 100% of the students in your class have consistent internet access.

If you are having difficulty completing, please reach out to your teacher. Your teachers will lead with grace and understanding for assignment completion.

\*\* The timeline for when an assignment is marked as a '0' may change based on guidance that the District receives in the future. We are currently working with CDE to understand the best way to approach students who are not engaging in the assignments.

### **What supports are available for English Learners?**

Elementary students who are learning English will receive bilingual packets for literacy and math. They will also be receiving selected reading passages and activities from their teachers. For more information about instruction and skills, follow this link for [At Home Support for ELs](#).

### **What supports are available for Special Education?**

According to Federal guidance from the Office of Special Education and the Office of Civil Rights, if a district closes its schools in an effort to slow or stop the spread of COVID-19, and continues to provide education to general education students, the schools must ensure that students with disabilities have equal access to the same opportunities. This includes the provision that schools must implement the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) of a student with a disability to the greatest extent possible. This means that every attempt possible has been tried and documented to ensure equitable access for students with a disability.

MCSD, along with schools around the nation, recognizes the challenges in this situation and that compensatory services may be necessary to ensure equity for all students. The health and safety of our students and staff is our primary concern. *Separate guidance document is forthcoming.*

### **Where can families go for tech support?**

We recognize that some families will need support in accessing the various instructional tools and apps that we have provided. If you are in need of assistance, please contact your [building's tech support person](#).

As we enter into Spring Break, we hope that you and your family can find time to relax, rejuvenate, and stay healthy. We recognize that there are still many unanswered questions, so we will continue to communicate with you as we have answers.

Thank you,  
Stephen Schiell  
Superintendent