

April 1, 2020

## **Extended School Closure**

Dear MCS Students and Families,

As we finish up our 3<sup>rd</sup> week of the COVID-19 school closure, I want to update our students and families about where we currently are with the closure and what the next couple of weeks will involve.

**April Vacation** - I'll get the most popular news out of the way first!

By order of Governor Cuomo, our spring break scheduled for April 10-19<sup>th</sup> must be cancelled. The current statewide school closure ordered by the governor officially ends April 14<sup>th</sup>. All signs indicate that he will extend this closure for an additional period of time but we probably won't know for sure until the end of next week. If by some unlikely set of circumstances we are able to open school on Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, we will be required to have regular school session through the remainder of that week (Wednesday through Friday). What is far more likely is that the closure will be extended through the entire scheduled vacation. In this case, we will be providing learning materials and experiences for students to engage in learning during this time. We understand how challenging this is for our students and families so our teachers will be providing learning experiences that will keep students engaged in learning but will modify the scope and process during this time. Google Meets/Hangouts will not take place this week but teachers will continue to be accessible through Google Classroom, email, Class Dojo, etc. We very much appreciate all the hard work that our parents are doing at home supporting your child's learning. Specific information on learning materials will continue to be provided by your child's teachers.

## **Meals**

I am pleased to report that we are now delivering breakfast and lunch daily to over 80 students. Meals are provided to students at no cost to families and the school receives federal reimbursement based on the number of meals we serve.

## **UPCOMING MEAL PROGRAM CHANGES:**

Normal daily meal deliveries will continue through Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>. On Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup> we will be delivering meals for that day's lunch, Friday's breakfast/lunch and Monday's breakfast/lunch. On Monday, we will deliver meals for Tuesday through Friday of that week. Please contact Mrs. Green with any meal program changes.

## **Home Instruction**

Our weekly exchange of printed learning materials and our online teaching-learning processes are all going quite well. Thanks to our teachers, students and parents we have adapted very quickly to this new way of schooling during this unplanned and extended school closure. My thanks to all of you for supporting our students during this difficult time.

Our next weekly exchange will take place Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup> during our regularly scheduled meal delivery. Materials will be provided for April 8<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>. If needed, the next materials exchange will be planned for Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup>.

## **Daily Staffing**

We are required to restrict the number of employees at school more than originally planned and are operating on a daily basis using essential staff only. If you need to contact someone at school, we try to answer the phones during normal school hours; however, the easiest way to contact one of us is to send us an email.

Please stay tuned for updates by regularly checking the schools website and Facebook pages. We will also begin using a parent email distribution list to distribute information. Again, thank you for your patience and understanding during this challenging time.

Sincerely,

Timothy F. Farrell