

Mingus Union High School FAQs and Information RE: School Closure (Updated 4.3.20)

School districts throughout the state, including MUHS, have received additional information to allow us to move forward accordingly. For now, here is a summary of the topics we can address at this time:

School and District Office Closure

- Mingus Union High School District will be closed for the remainder of the school year.
- Students and families needing assistance will still be able to communicate with school and district office personnel by phone or email.

Academic Support for Students

From Arizona Department of Education: The Arizona Department of Education's Virtual Learning Hub is a resource for teachers and families to assist them as they plan for non-traditional instruction and should be used with discretion and in the way that best fits with their school/district curricula. This is a living document that will be updated frequently.

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1jSYo9IJ6jTU8866xNyrjSj8Sf3A3k0AJFWjw_M4lj0o/edit

- Since Wednesday, March 18, the District has been posting enrichment activities (not submitted/not graded), test preparation practices and resources for students who wish to use them to a google folder "**Learning Resources Folders**" located on the school website at www.mingusunion.com. If students do not have internet access or a device at home, please call the school at 928-634-7531 and use the directory to reach your student's Advisory teacher. Please leave a message and the Advisory teacher will coordinate communication with your student's teachers.
- ***What do we do for students who had to make up work from before break?***
Encourage students to turn in through digital platforms: Google Classroom or email. Students can check Family link for missing assignments prior to our closure.
- ***How will assignments be collected and graded?*** At this time all resources provided to students and parents are optional to maintain learning during the school closure. At this time no assignments will be required for grading. As we move toward awarding credit, we will have work available for students who want to improve their grades. See additional information under "Graduation and Awarding of Credit."
- ***Our teachers have been reaching out via email and phone to check on your family and provide information and see if we can address any concerns.***

Social, Emotional and Physical Well-being of Students

From Arizona Department of Education: The Project Aware team at the Arizona Department of Education has compiled a list of social-emotional support resources to help families and educators have conversations with students and each other during this period of high-stress and uncertainty. Any non-instructional materials should be used with discretion and in the way that

best fits with their school/district curricula.

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1H8zuZtINOCsZnp2gvj0WJroBEnq2PmmbSPkYltjPE90/edit#gid=0>

In addition to the educational opportunities being shared by teachers in the MUHS Learning Resources Folders, counselors are working hard to provide updated information and resources surrounding test prep, college planning, and mental health & wellness. We would encourage you to check out the Counseling folder in our Google Drive for more, or reach out to your student's counselor for support.

- I need to speak with my counselor as soon as possible about an immediate need, what should I do? If you are in crisis and need to talk to someone immediately, please don't wait.

Spectrum Healthcare Crisis Line

Crisis Line is available 24 hours a day/7 days a week: (928)634-2236

Teen Lifeline

Calling available 24/7. Texting available 12pm-9pm on weekdays and 3pm-9pm on weekends. Peer counselors are still available from 3pm to 9pm every day.

602-248-8336 (TEEN)

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<http://teenlifeline.org/resources/#general>

Crisis Text Line

Text "START" or "HELLO" to 741741

<https://www.crisistextline.org/>

Suicide Prevention Resource Center

1-800-273-8255 (TALK)

<http://www.sprc.org/resources-programs>

SAMSHA has a disaster distress hotline:

Call 1-800-985-5990 or text TalkWithUs to 66746 to connect with a trained crisis counselor.

State and National Testing

From Arizona Department of Education: Per the school closure emergency legislation signed on March 27, 2020, State-wide assessments for 2019-2020 (AZM2, MSAA, AIMS Science, etc.) are **cancelled**.

On Tuesday, March 31, 2020, the U.S. Department of Education (ED) notified ADE that we have met all statutory requirements necessary to receive a federal waiver from testing and accountability. ED intends to issue a formal approval of the waiver in the coming weeks.

The College Board has canceled the March 14th SAT test as well as its March 28th make-up test date. They have also canceled the May 2nd SAT administration. Students affected by these cancellations will receive refunds.

The College Board has announced that all **in-person** AP tests have been canceled for this year due to safety concerns related to the coronavirus (COVID-19). In their place, the College Board will make AP tests available to be **taken from home via a 45-minute online exam**. There will be **2 different testing dates for each AP subject area test**.

- Also, **any student already registered for an exam can choose to cancel at no charge**. Please refer to the College Board for their [full statement](#).
- For more information, visit www.azed.gov/advanced-placement.

Meal Service

- The Mingus Café is serving Grab and Go breakfast from 8am-9am and Grab and Go lunch from 11am-12pm. Meals are available to all K12 students. This service will continue throughout the closure.

Graduation and Awarding of Credit

From Arizona Department of Education:

Awarding Academic Credit & High School Diplomas

The State Board of Education adopted emergency rules (see below) regarding the issuance of academic credit and high school diplomas for the 2019-2020 school year.

When deciding how to award academic credit and high school diplomas, schools should first base the decisions on the entire school year, including any educational opportunities provided during closures. School districts and charter schools determine what the educational opportunities are and how they are delivered. Examples may include independent study and online instruction.

If schools are unable to provide educational opportunities during the closure, then schools may look to the student's progress prior to the closure. Specifically, if the student already met the competency requirements for the course or was on track to graduate prior to the closure, then the school may award the credit or diploma. How to make this determination is at the discretion of the school district or charter school. *Mingus will begin the process of reviewing transcripts and third quarter progress this week. Your student will be given the opportunity to improve their grade by submitting an assignment packet and/or turning in work from the third quarter. Additional details will be provided by April 13th. We appreciate your patience as we review each transcript carefully and create plans for your students.*

Regarding the Civics Test Graduation Requirement, students are still required by statute to receive a 60% or better on the Civics Test. As a reminder, students may take the assessment in a form and manner determined by the school district or charter school.

Schools should not withhold diplomas from a student that is unable to take the assessment due to barriers created by the public health emergency. **Mingus will not withhold diplomas from students who are unable to take the assessment due to the COVID-19 epidemic.**

These rules are intended to clarify pathways to award credit and diplomas as the result of the closures. Schools retain the authority to decide whether to issue diplomas or credit to students. However, schools may not base these decisions solely due to missed instructional time as the result of the closure.

- ***Will graduation take place as planned?*** The Governor's Office cancelled school and all accompanying activities for this school year. The traditional graduation ceremony will not take place, but we are exploring virtual/creative options to celebrate our seniors as well as special recognition and events during Homecoming Week 2020. More to come!
- ***What about my cap and gown?*** We are working with Balfour on a plan for mailings by the end of next week. Caps, gowns, and announcements will be mailed home.
- ***What about senior cap and gown photos?*** LifeTouch photography has been deemed a "non-essential" business and is closed until the end of April. Photos will be processed and mailed as soon as they are open and we will mail photos to families as quickly as we receive them.

Prom Prom has been cancelled this school year due to CDC recommendation to limit gatherings of 10+ people.

Rentals The District has cancelled all facility rentals at this time. We expect to be able to reopen our rental process next fall.

Locker Cleanout/Uniforms/Band Equipment: We are working on a plan to allow students to return books, pick up their personal items, and return uniforms and equipment. This will most likely take place in early May when the Stay-At-Home order is lifted. We will release more information when this plan is finalized.

To the families of our high school seniors: *We see you and we hear you. We know you're in an especially unique position through all this. We are so proud of you! We want you and your family members to stay safe and healthy; that's the priority. But please know that we will honor you and your accomplishments when it is safe to move forward! If there is anything we can do to further support you or your student, please let us know.*
#NarwhalStrong

While most of us have never experienced this level of disruption and uncertainty in our lifetime, we hold tight to stories of people who have overcome tough obstacles, people who persevere and make the world better through their insights and experiences. Our story of courage and perseverance is unfolding before us and we are certain to be forever changed and stronger as a result.

Please know that Mingus Union High School faculty, staff and administration are here to support our students and families. Our Administrative team is available for your questions:

Genie Gee, Principal 928-593-9326 or 928-649-4415 or ggee@muhs.com

Allen Mitchell, Assistant Principal 928-821-0077 amitchell@muhs.com

Justin Hartman, Assistant Principal 928-587-6642 or jhartman@muhs.com

Gretchen Wesbrock, Student Support Services 928-607-4556 or gwesbrock@muhs.com

MARAUDER PRIDE IS ON OUR SIDE!! We will get through this together!