

# SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 143

of Cook County, Illinois



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April 1, 2020

Hello District 143 Community,

As you are probably aware, Governor Pritzker extended the stay at home order through April 30, which means all schools will also be closed during that time. As a result, we are in the process of developing a more sustainable remote learning experience for our students. Our goal is to provide meaningful lessons and activities for all students through the remainder of the school closure. However, even more important to us and the Illinois State Board of Education is that our students and staff remain safe and healthy, both physically and emotionally. Please realize that although we want our students to continue to exercise their minds, this learning format is not ideal nor familiar to our students and staff and we do not expect perfection. We just ask that your children put forth effort and continue to stay engaged.

***The new remote learning schedule will begin Monday, April 6th. However, students and staff will NOT be engaging in remote learning on Friday, April 10 and Monday, April 13 - as the days were originally scheduled to be off of school.***

#### **Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays**

- Students should log in to Google Classroom between 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. *We will use the log in to record attendance.*
- Assignments will be posted by 9 a.m.
- Staff will be available 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. through Google classroom and email. *Please be patient if you do not get an answer immediately as there are many students who are interacting with the staff.*

#### **Thursdays**

- Students should use this as a "catch-up" day for incomplete work from the week.
- Teachers will be planning as teams for the following week.

We are asking our staff to adhere to the 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. schedule to allow them time to work with their own children and to tend to their families. Therefore, if your child has a question after 1 p.m. please anticipate it will be addressed the following day. There is no expectation that your child should complete an assignment without the necessary questions answered. Please understand that all assignments completed will only positively impact grades. Again, our goal is to keep your child actively engaged.

There have been some questions about grades. We will not be posting third quarter grades. However, we will use the accumulated grades prior to the school closure as a starting point for a semester grade which will include the third and fourth quarters. Therefore, it is important for students to engage in remote learning as all assignments during the school closure can improve student grades.

**If you do NOT have internet access**, Xfinity WiFi hotspots are available to anyone for free right now. For a map of WiFi Hotspots, visit <https://wifi.xfinity.com/>. Once at a hotspot, select the "xfinity wifi" network name in the list of available hotspots and then launch a browser. Comcast is also offering free and/or reduced price internet for families in need. To apply, please click on the following Comcast link <https://www.internetessentials.com/Apply>. Please see our website ([msd143.com](http://msd143.com)) for low-cost internet options. There are also other way students can access Google Classroom through a computer, laptop, tablet, Chromebook, iPad, and smart phone. Please communicate with your teacher if you are having difficulty.

We understand that uncertainty can be uncomfortable for us all. As I have said before, these are unprecedented times. The District 143 community has responded exactly as I would have expected - with kindness, with flexibility, and with a true passion for our students and our colleagues. We are a family and we will get through this difficult situation together. Now is a better time than ever to unite as a community and support our neighbors and local businesses.

Please continue to check our website ([msd143.com](http://msd143.com)) for information as we will continue to update it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael A. Hollingsworth". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping "M" and a distinct "H".

Michael A. Hollingsworth  
Superintendent