

MAGNOLIA PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Learning and Achieving School

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3/23/2020

Good Afternoon Magnolia Families,

It has been a week since we have been asked to dramatically transform the delivery of education to our students. The Governor referred to it as, "Our teachers are building the plane while learning how to fly." Thank you for your patience and support as our school district works intensely to shift to this online learning model. Every challenge that presents itself also yields new opportunities to try new methods of learning. These are difficult and even scary times, but we have the best students, staff, and parents around so I am confident we will hear about countless examples of successful learning experiences.

On Saturday, March 21, New Jersey Governor Murphy announced a statewide "stay at home" order to take effect at 9:00 pm that evening. It is unknown at this time how long NJ schools will be closed, and highly likely that it will go well beyond the two weeks originally estimated. With that in mind, most districts are planning for extended closures.

With these new stay at home and remote learning directives given by the state until further notice, beginning Monday, March 23, Magnolia School building will be closed with these exceptions:

- Magnolia **students who qualify for free and reduced lunch** may pick up their lunch at the main front entrance 2x a week on Mondays and Wednesdays from 11am to noon. Students will receive enough meals for lunch and breakfast on those two days to account for a whole week.
- **Maintenance staff** will continue sanitizing the school, but will remain at minimum directed parameters set for social distancing.
- **Administrative Staff and Teachers** will report to the building minimally to provide packets for students who have no accessible internet or technology.

Student Attendance: Attendance will be recorded daily by the homeroom teacher. The primary method our teachers will use to verify student attendance will be based on an electronic interaction, for example, completing a daily Google Form. Students who do not have digital access have two alternatives:

- The guardian can send a photo of completed work to the teacher via Class Dojo. If the guardian does not have a smartphone/internet, then he/she must call the teacher each day. Teachers will provide the best number for contact. This may be their classroom line at school or via Google Voice phone number.

- **Students/guardians will have until 8 pm to make contact with their homeroom teacher in order to be marked present.** If your child will be unable to make contact, please communicate that to the teacher in advance.

What you can count on during remote learning:

- **Communication:** The district is committed to sending out regular updates in order to keep our families informed. Your child's teacher is your direct line for any specific questions or concerns. Please reach out through Class Dojo or Google Classroom. If you contact the school, please leave a voicemail on your child's teacher's extension. It will be forwarded to your child's teacher's email.
- **Daily Instruction:** Teachers will post daily assignments/lessons each morning. They will then be available Monday through Friday at intermittent hours to support the students and respond to questions electronically. Your child's teacher will communicate what method they plan to use for lessons. Example: Google Classroom, Zoom etc...
- **Special Education (IEP) meetings:** Your child's case manager will be available if you have specific concerns or need additional support. Scheduled meetings will continue to be held remotely via telephone, Zoom, etc..
- **Emotional Support & Mindfulness:** This may be a particularly worrisome and anxious time for some of our students. Our amazing guidance and CST staff are here to support our children during this remote learning period if needed. Please communicate any request for a counselor to contact you (or your child) through the classroom teacher, or directly to the voicemail of the counselor. Also, the CST has a Google Classroom. A master list of Google Classroom codes for our school will be posted on Class Dojo today.
- **Preschool and Kindergarten Registration for 2020-2021:** Google Forms will be available on the registration section of the district website starting Wednesday, March 25.

Although we are working from home, we are committed to supporting you as our students. Please remember, we are all in this together. If you haven't seen, a positive message and attitude goes a long way. We encourage everyone to keep participating in spirit days, zooms with each other, and performing acts of kindness like writing to retirement homes. On behalf of the entire Magnolia School Staff Family, thank you for your continued support and partnership. Should you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher, principal or my office and we will work to support you.

Sincerely,

The Administrative Team: Karen Macpherson, Jennifer Pontarelli, Paul Sorrentino