

MAGNOLIA PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Learning and Achieving School

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9/21/2020

Dear Parents, Students, Community,

Thank you for your continued patience and support as we begin the 2020-2021 school year. We are now three weeks into our year, and Magnolia has really risen to the challenge. We have learned a lot of lessons in the spring, and we hope our continual evolution through this time and process will help our students and families.

As you are well aware, we have been remote to start our year. However, we have largely tried to mimic a traditional school day as much as possible. We will continue to try to follow this model, whether hybrid or remote. A "Hybrid Classroom" means that the teaching team has both live and remote learners at the same time. Much of our training over the last three weeks has been how to treat both of these groups as one blended classroom. Grade level teams have formed. These teams consist of 4-5 individuals to help keep students engaged (whether they're in the classroom or at home) during our new typical learning day, roughly between 8:15 AM to 12:35 PM (depending on each grade level's staggered start/end time). As much as possible, remote students will be virtual with their teacher as live learners are in the classroom. As many of you acknowledged, this is going to be quite a challenge. It also can look very different each day or week depending on the environment and COVID-19 responses for families and the school.

Teachers will be using a variety of technology and techniques to make this happen. You may see that a certified teacher is on with remote learners while a paraprofessional is working with live students, and vice versa. You may also see a "specials" teacher working in a breakout room or providing coverage for the homeroom teacher. There may even be the possibility of an administrator assisting with a lesson either virtual or live. Each grade level team is different, and the needs of the learners at each level will vary. The teachers will communicate their plans to parents this week via their Google Classrooms and DOJOs.

We will face many challenges throughout this process. We are at the mercy of the internet and power. We will have to be vigilant in our response to how the pandemic affects our

learning community. The stark reality is that there could be cases that could make an entire class, multiple classes, or the school go remote at any time with minimal notice. We will ask for your continued flexibility and support, and know that we will make these decisions based on an abundance of caution for both students and staff. No matter how hard we have worked, we need to enter this phase together knowing that this is all new and experimental. We have taken an education system that has been crafted over a century and changed it within months.

This week, our first experience with live learners in the classroom will be to orient them to this new model along with all the precautions we must now observe. As stated in the previous letter regarding Student Orientation, remote students should be prepared for a very light workload this Thursday (9/24) and Friday (9/25) while staff members are engaged in orientation and safety training with live students. Students are able to dress down. The Magnolia staff is looking forward to working with in person students in our classrooms again, and we hope that our continued responsibility and caution will continue to keep us on the road back.

Thank you,
Magnolia Administration