



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

(June 8, 2020: La Movida broadcast of Positivamente ... MCPASD)

1. With the 2019-20 school year being, what were some measures the District took to ensure equitable support to all families? What worked and what did not work with online learning?

We reached out to families before we started online instruction to find out who needed a computer and-or internet access. While most of our families indicated they had at least one computer at home, many families indicated they did not have enough devices for each child in their household. We ended up distributing close to 2,500 Chromebook computers.

We have also provided more than 100 MiFi devices for families who didn't have internet access. We made families aware of free internet access through some local providers. We also shared with families hot spots in our area where they could go to access the internet, including in some of our school parking lots.

Anecdotally, we heard through our school social workers and student and family engagement specialists that the vast majority of our students participated regularly in online instruction from when we started on April 1 through our last school day on Friday, June 5. A survey that more than 2,900 District adults participated in last month also indicated that. We know that some didn't engage, but the reasons may have included lack of a computer or internet access, but in many cases it was also because there were more pressing needs for the family.

2. How was the District able to identify what was needed and not needed to continue the support for families?

Besides surveying families, we asked staff at our schools to check in regularly with families to find out how we could support their children. It was a balancing act, as we didn't want to appear that we are intruding in any way. We have amazing support staff who have worked tirelessly over the years to build relationships with students and families and the result is they got honest feedback and information when they reached out.

3. Were there students who did not engage with online instruction?

Yes, there were. Superintendent Dana Monogue reported at a School Board meeting in April that about 200 students out of approximately 7,500 in the District weren't engaging in virtual learning. That works out to about 3 percent.

4. What were some support systems put in place for those students?

Our staff continued to try and connect with those students and families to find out why and if there was anything we could do to help. I was part of a meeting involving school social workers, student and family engagement specialists and bilingual staff that met at least once a week. The 25-plus staff members who participate in those meetings shared what they learned as they have connected with those students and families. In many cases, it was important to note that those students weren't engaging because they disliked school or needed support, but rather they and their families had other needs that were taking precedence. We tried to be supportive and understanding of every situation.

5. For the student population that will be needing summer school, is there a plan for summer school offerings?

We will be offering summer school this year to high school students only. They have the chance to earn credits in subjects they failed during the school year. Summer school will run from June 15 to July 23 and be held from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Mondays through Thursdays for those six weeks.

We are hopeful that we will be able to bring students back into our buildings in August. If so, our plan is to be strategic and ask students who didn't participate regularly in virtual learning and-or those students who need the most academic support to attend.

Based on Governor Evers' original Safer at Home order and the subsequent Forward Dane plan, we won't be able to hold in-person summer school so what we do offer will be done completely online.

We do want to hold a broader in-person summer school for some students in August. However, we may have to get creative about what it looks like. If social distancing guidelines are still in place and there are limits of 10, 20 or 50 people in an area, we would need to consider staggering when students come to school or offering different days when some students come as opposed to others. What we do know anecdotally is that virtual learning has been a benefit for some students and a struggle for others.

6. What about all the seniors graduating this school year. Will there be a postponed graduation ceremony?

We had to cancel the graduation ceremony for the Class of 2020 that was scheduled to be held at Alliant Energy Center in Madison on Sunday, May 31.

We have tentatively rescheduled the graduation ceremony for the Class of 2020 for Saturday, July 25 at 7 p.m. at Breitenbach Stadium on the Middleton High School campus. If it rains, the ceremony would take place on Sunday, July 26 at 7 p.m.

We also met recently to discuss how we might hold a smaller graduation ceremony if the Badger Bounce Back Plan and Forward Dane plan aren't far enough along to allow mass gatherings. We are

preparing an alternative graduation ceremony that would be part-virtual and part in-person. Speeches would be done virtually, while we would bring 50 to 100 seniors at a time to Breitenbach Stadium to process in, walk on a stage to get their diploma, change their tassel and safely throw their cap.

We plan to decide by July 11, based on what guidelines area and state health officials are suggesting at that time, what kind of graduation ceremony we will hold.

7. For the families or students that need services, such as meals. Is the District going to deliver or have meals available for students during the summer?

We will continue offering free meals at our nine distribution sites through June 30. We will provide meals at Kromrey Middle School and Sauk Trail Elementary School in July and August. It also appears the Education Foundation will provide funds so we can continue to provide meals at some of the other meal distribution sites we currently are using.

The federal government recently announced that adults can continue to pick up meals for children in July and August and that meals don't have to be eaten on site.

It is possible we will adjust the times meals are distributed. We may also go with fewer dates each week as it can be challenging to find staff to work in the summer. However, if we do go with fewer dates the plan is to distribute 2 or 3 days' worth of meals at a time.

8. Now that we have confirmed dates of the hot meals, weekend program, and hygiene bags distributions can you please share the dates and locations for these places?

Meals will continue to be offered weekdays through Tuesday, June 30 at the 9 distribution sites. Those locations are:

- Lakeview Park, Middleton
- Arbor Lakes Apartments, Middleton
- Overlook Pointe Apartments, Middleton
- Sauk Trail Elementary School, 2205 Branch St., Middleton
- Kalesey Court, Town of Springfield
- Kromrey Middle School, 7009 Donna Dr., Middleton
- Morraine View Drive Bus Stop, Madison
- Gammon Lane Bus Stop, Madison
- Park Elementary School, 1209 Park St., Cross Plains

The Weekend Food Program continued to provide more than 300 bags across the nine meal distribution sites on Fridays in March, April, May and June 5 while our buildings were closed. The Education Foundation and local churches are hoping to get enough volunteers to continue to offer the Weekend Food Program throughout the summer.

Boxes with personal hygiene supplies – which includes toilet paper, soap, laundry detergent, toothpaste and many more items -- have been available four times so far. More than 1,110 boxes have been distributed already. The Education Foundation plans to have personal hygiene supplies also available on June 22, July 20 and August 17 during summer break.

9. Where can families find continued updated information pertaining to COVID-19 changes in our school district?

We continue to provide updates, resources and other information on our District website at www.mcpsd.k12.wi.us. You can find this information on our COVID-19 Information and Updates page.

I would also encourage families to reach out to school social workers, student and family engagement specialists at the school their child attends or our bilingual staff. They are great resources and want to make sure all of our students and families have the support they need.

10. Are there any updates for next school year? Is school going to be virtual or blended learning?

We are planning for three different possibilities for the 2020-21 school year. The first would be that all students and staff return to school buildings. The second is that we continue with virtual learning for all students, just as we did for the final nine weeks of the 2019-20 school year. The third is a blended model that would allow for students to come to school buildings on some days and do virtual learning on others.

The third model may be required if school buildings are allowed to reopen but there are limits placed on the number of students who can be in a classroom or space.

We have teams working on each of these plans and our hope is to announce something by early August. We also hope by that point we will have more information from local and state health officials about what recommendations, guidelines and rules they have.

11. Are there any updates about summer or fall sports? Are the sports cancelled or is there a website families and students can receive this information?

Our schools don't field WIAA-sponsored athletic teams in the summer, although they certainly use the time to have student-athletes work out or play games without coaches.

The WIAA hasn't announced if fall sports will take place as usual, be postponed or not be held. We expect to hear more from the WIAA later in the summer and their recommendations, along with the guidance from local and state health officials, will play a role in what we do.

Our buildings and outdoor athletic facilities remain closed until the end of July for now. That could be extended depending on what happens with the Forward Dane plan. We will continue to communicate with our students and families as we learn more.