



Middleton-Cross Plains  
Area School District  
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Dear Parents, Guardians and Caregivers of MCPASD 4K Students,

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year. It is our hope that this message finds you well and that you have spent quality time with loved ones this summer as we all embrace social distancing and prioritize safety. Self-care is essential right now in order for our community to thrive in ways that get us back in school buildings as quickly as possible. We want to acknowledge that beginning this school year virtually may elicit many strong emotions and may offer significant challenges for families. The purpose of this letter is to communicate our plans as a school community for supporting students and families during this time and for making this school year positive, engaging and filled with rigorous learning.

In preparation for various possible school scenarios, multiple work groups met over the summer to construct plans for how we will navigate teaching and learning during this very unique year. Knowing the changing landscape, we've been moving forward with planning for multiple scenarios realizing there is a good chance that we may have to shift between and among these scenarios throughout the year. We are committed to communicating with you frequently and we thank you for your patience and your grace as these times require us to be flexible and adaptive.

### Emergency Distance Learning vs Intentional Distance Learning

Please realize that the distance learning practices that were put in place in the spring were emergency plans. You will note that the distance learning plans set for this school year are much more rigorous and intentional planning was done to include explicit **developmentally appropriate experiential instruction**, new content learning, increased face time with teachers and among students, differentiated learning opportunities, student feedback around learning targets, and increased support for student engagement.

### Social Emotional Wellness and Connection

Our most important responsibility is to keep children safe. Beyond physical safety, we care deeply about the social - emotional well being of our students and believe strong relationships with students and families are critical. To begin building these relationships, each classroom teacher will be setting up a beginning -of-year **Family Outreach** Session with each family to learn about their interests and their hopes and dreams for the year. These meetings will take place online prior to the start of the school year; you will receive additional information soon with scheduling details.

Then, once the school year has started, students will have one-on-one conferences with teachers, whole -group class meetings, and small group time that supports social growth and nurtures emotional wellness. Teachers will also connect with each family on a regular basis to check in about how things are going, answer questions, and provide any necessary support. Remember that children are typically okay when the adults around them are okay. We know you may have strong feelings about distance learning and accompanying challenges; please try to be positive about this learning structure around your child so that the school year begins with excitement. Our staff will be welcoming your child with enthusiasm, encouragement, love and big online smiles! We hope you partner with us by offering similar emotional support.

### Technology and Instructional Materials

All students in 4K will receive an iPad for instructional use during this school year. In addition to technology, learning materials will also be provided to students. **Materials may include resources, tools, or supplies to support learning.** Information regarding pick up of technology and materials will be sent to you soon. In the meantime, consider setting up a learning space with your child.

The online learning platform we will use for all students in 4K this year is Seesaw. Students will receive guided training and practice using Seesaw and information and videos will also be sent to parents and caregivers to learn about Seesaw prior to school starting. If you are interested in learning about Seesaw sooner, [this site](#) offers an overview.

**Also, Parents will have access to Ready Rosie.**

## Instruction

Rest assured that distance learning this year will have an emphasis on explicit **developmentally appropriate experiential instruction**, new content learning. While students will be learning away from school, staff will be teaching from their classrooms. The classroom space and tools and resources in the room will be set up to support virtual teaching and learning. Staff will be designing learning opportunities using our district curricular materials and that support priority standards **aligned to the Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards.** At the start of each week, teachers will articulate to you specific learning goals that will be practiced as well as success criteria for knowing when students have met the learning target. Differentiated instruction will be offered to support students when they need practice with a skill and to support students when they are ready for the next skill. Our staff will be focused on providing clear and consistent feedback and communication with students and parents about learning and student growth.

## Weekly Schedule

You will be receiving detailed schedules from teachers, however in an effort to support your family in planning, here are some general schedule notes; our goal is for weekly schedules to be consistent and predictable:

- Students will engage in both synchronous and asynchronous learning throughout the week.
  - Synchronous learning is live/must be on a computer at a particular time (examples may include a whole class morning meeting, small reading group or 1:1 writing conference).
  - Asynchronous learning is not live (examples may include pre-recorded mini-lessons, collaborative work within shared documents, skill practice online or offline via tasks/activities).
- Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays will include a combination of synchronous and asynchronous learning for students each week.
- Wednesdays are designated as asynchronous learning only. (Staff will be involved in all-day professional development and planning for hybrid and full in-person transition) While there will be no live teaching and learning on Wednesdays, it is expected that students will continue to follow a schedule and engage in Wednesday's learning opportunities that teachers will provide.
- Efforts will be made to schedule small groups and 1:1 conferences with students at the same time each week for ease of planning by parents/caregivers.
- A sample student day might look something like this:
  - Participate in a **class** meeting, engage with **learning activities at home**, conference with teacher, (Estimated time, without movement breaks or a lunch break, is about **1-1.5** hours of learning time each day.)

- Our staff is committed to working with all families to ensure students can be as successful as possible. We will be offering opportunities for learning and engaging with students/caregivers who are only available in the evenings. More information is forthcoming.

You likely have additional questions at this point. There is still much to be planned and decided and we promise to communicate decisions to you as quickly as possible. Again, we thank you for your patience and support and look forward to partnering with you to make this a positive start to your child's school year.