



Middleton—Cross Plains
Area School District
inclusive. innovative. inspiring.

Hello District families,

The nine-member Board of Education wishes to express their appreciation to our 7,500-plus students and their families for their patience, support, resiliency, positive attitude and all of the other amazing attributes displayed over these past few weeks.

During the School Board's virtual meeting on Monday night, the members shared the concerns they have heard related to the rollout of online instruction, but also their appreciation for all that has been accomplished, including:

- More than 6,000 free meals distributed to our children in three weeks.
- More than 2,500 Chromebooks issued to students in advance of online learning.
- MiFi devices issued to families who don't have internet access, sharing hotspots available in the area to get access or free service from some providers.
- Developing content that didn't exist a few weeks for online instruction.

In just a few short weeks, our District has accomplished so much. We hope your child's or children's first week of online instruction has gone well and been fairly smooth. We know there will continue to be challenges to resolve but together we will.

Here are the other updates for Friday, April 3.

1. Can you further explain what passive consent for virtual meetings means?

As we noted in our communication to families on March 31, your child's teacher may provide small group or one-on-one virtual lessons and/or discussions. Staff will use Google Hangout, Google Meet, or Zoom to hold video conferences with students.

If you do not want your child to participate, please notify your elementary classroom teacher or your specific content teacher at the middle school and high school levels. Students will not be penalized if their families opt them out of participating.

There have also been questions regarding security issues related to virtual lessons. Staff, especially for our older students, may provide passwords so that only those individuals who have access to the password can participate. Staff have also been reminded not to publicize

links to meetings and that if someone jumps into a virtual meeting without authorization to end the meeting immediately.

2. I heard that online instruction for MCPASD students is optional. Is that correct?

No, that is not correct. We expect all District students to participate in online instruction.

However, we also understand that all of our students may not be able to access online instruction at the same time it is being offered. We realize some children may not have enough devices in their household in order for everyone to be online at the same time. We also realize some families may not have high-speed internet access and are limiting how many children are accessing virtual learning at one time. Finally, we also realize some students may need adult help with the online platforms so they may be accessing lessons when it works for their families.

Our staff will be reaching out to students who aren't accessing modules-lessons and-or turning in homework to see how we can support them.

3. Are you offering any mindfulness virtual opportunities?

Many of our classrooms practice mindfulness routinely. Our Coordinator of Mindful Education, Betsy Delzer, has updated a list of resources on our [District web page](#) and is hosting a Q&A virtually for educators on April 8 and for families on April 10. Find out more information on the [MCPASD Mindful COVID-19 page](#).

4 Is there one place I can go on the District website for online instruction help?

On Thursday, the Communications Department added a [Learning at Home page](#) to the District website. It includes resources for elementary and secondary students, links where you can login to Seesaw, Google Classroom or BUZZ depending on your grade and what platform you need to use and lots of other supports.

If the embedded link in the previous paragraph doesn't work for your child, the page can also be found under For Students-Student Resources.

5. Will Friday, April 10 still be a No School Day for students?

Yes, students will not have school on Friday, April 10. We have no plans to change the remainder of the [2019-20 MCPASD calendar](#), unless the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction requires all school districts to make a change.