



Middleton–Cross Plains
Area School District
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Hello District families,

We decided to hold off emailing earlier in the week as we know many of you are getting regular communication from staff in our schools. We realize the volume of communications can feel overwhelming at times, however, we would rather hear complaints about too much communication rather than not enough, especially during the current situation.

Here are the updates for Wednesday, April 8:

1. Is it true the school playgrounds are closed?

Yes, all school and public playgrounds are closed after Public Health Madison & Dane County issued a directive last week. That also includes the MHS tennis courts.

You will see the following sign by all of our playgrounds while the directive is in place:



2. Our financial situation has changed as a result of COVID-19. As a result, are our children eligible for free-or-reduced lunch and-or breakfast?

Any child 18 years of age or younger can get free breakfast and lunch at one of our nine meal distribution sites while schools are closed. Those sites will continue to be open on days we would have normally had school for as long as the schools remain closed.

If a family wants to submit an application for free-and-reduced meals for their child when schools reopen, they can find [the application on the District website under For Parents](#).

Parents fill in the form with their current pay. It is not based on last year's tax information. If you complete the form now, your status would carry over to October 2020. At that point, families need to fill out a new form. If you wait until August, the form would be good for the 2020-21 school year, even if your pay or job status changes during the year. Forms for the 2020-21 school year will become available early July.

3. Do you know anything about the Resilient Wisconsin Initiative?

The state recently announced the Resilient Wisconsin Initiative, which provides tools to build resiliency for those affected by trauma, toxic stress, and other mental and behavioral health challenges. Recommendations include: get the three goods (good-for-you foods, a good night's sleep, and a good amount of exercise every day), stay connected to your support system, spend time away from focusing on COVID-19, reduce anxiety by reducing your risk, and check in with yourself.

You can learn more on the [Wisconsin Department of Health Services website](#).

4. My child is still running into issues with BUZZ. Do you have any other suggestions?

Middle or high school students having issues logging into BUZZ can also access online learning through [Genius](#). Students use their normal username (last initial, first initial, student number, followed by their BUZZ password). We have also posted the link on the District website under Learning from Home Links on the right side of the main page.

5. We could use additional assistance. Do you have recommendations?

We are encouraging families who need food and other essential supplies and resources to reach out to the [United Way of Dane County 2-1-1 program](#).

6. Do you have suggestions for how we can protect ourselves in public?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended earlier this week that people going out in public wear cloth masks to protect themselves and others, especially as some in public may be asymptomatic. To learn more, including watching a video of how to make a cloth face cover, [please visit the CDC website](#).

7. We are having issues with our District-issued Chromebook. What can we do?

District students and staff whose MCPASD-issued devices aren't working properly, should use this [online appointment form](#). The technology department is taking appointments to pick up or drop off devices in 15-minute intervals from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekdays at the District Services Center, 7106 South Ave., Middleton. If transportation is an issue, please contact a social worker at your child's school.

8. We know there are families in our District who need more help. What can we do?

The MCPASD Education Foundation, in collaboration with school social workers, has started a campaign to raise funds to purchase personal hygiene products for students and families who need the help. Among the items being purchased are toilet paper, paper towels, cleaning wipes, hand sanitizer, hand and dish soap, laundry detergent, shampoo, conditioner, lotion, tampons, toothpaste, and toothbrushes.

The Foundation hopes to raise at least \$15,000 to help approximately 500 students. If you would like to contribute, please visit their [PayPal donation site](#).

9. Where can I find information about community resources and social emotional supports?

We have added a section on the [COVID-19 page on the District website](#) that provides students and families with information about local community resources. Some of these resources include: crisis intervention and mental health, community meals and food pantries, personal essentials, housing information and assistance, health care, and LGBTQ+ resources.

Also on the [COVID-19 page on the District website](#) you will find social emotional resources for you to access that are appropriate for each school age level. For the middle and high school levels, each school has created a Google site where you can locate student services staff members, make a virtual appointment with one of them and see social emotional and mental health resources appropriate for that age level.

If you have questions about the resources listed or have other needs that are not listed, please contact the student services member at your child's school.