



Middleton–Cross Plains
Area School District
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Hello District families,

We hope you were able to enjoy some time with your children last week over spring break. We are also excited to have staff return today and begin the final training and preparations for online instruction, which begins for students on Wednesday.

We shared the following points with staff earlier today and thought it was important to share with our families as well:

1. Be patient with yourself and with others.
2. Focus on personal connections and supporting well-being.
3. If you need help, ask. We are all here to help and support each other.
4. Keep prioritizing the things that are truly important and let the rest go.

We will keep today's update brief:

1. What should we do if our child is sick and can't participate in virtual learning?

Adults should report student absences through the Attendance Hotline for your child's school, just like families did previously. We also encourage you to let your child's teachers know.

One of our goals with online instruction is to make sure children aren't falling behind and we are encouraging educators to reach out regularly to find out how we can support students who aren't able to regularly do virtual learning for whatever reason.

2. Will I need to provide consent for my child to participate in online learning?

We will be providing families with more information prior to online instruction beginning on Wednesday. Families who have children with IEPs or 504 plans will need to provide active consent for special education virtual meetings. Other students will be expected to participate in virtual meetings related to instruction unless a family notifies the District otherwise.

3. I'm getting a lot of emails. Is it possible staff can provide more identifying information?

We realize many of our families have children at different schools and levels and it can be confusing to get multiple emails. We are also emailing staff regularly and in today's email they

are all being reminded to make it clear in the subject line of the email which school and staff member is sending the communication. All emails from the District will also be clearly identified.

4. Is there an update on graduation ceremonies?

The Class of 2020 high school graduation ceremony is scheduled to take place on Sunday, May 31 at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison. The ceremony is still on at this time.

Superintendents at Dane County school districts have decided to make a collective decision regarding graduation on or near May 1. We have also discussed when and where we could hold an alternative graduation ceremony in the summer should the May date not work out.

Our two middle schools also hold graduation ceremonies for eighth-graders the final week of the school year. No decision has been made on those events. If schools are reopened, we would anticipate each graduation ceremony still taking place.

5. We would like to thank District staff for their incredible efforts. Ideas?

Actually, we do have one. If you are interested, please use your smartphone to make a video clip praising educators for all they do, expressing gratitude and an acknowledgement of how vital educators are to your child's or children's success.

Please refrain from mentioning individual staff members. If you could keep the videos to 45 seconds and mail them to Director of Communications Perry Hibner at phibner@mcpasd.k12.wi.us, we would appreciate it. Our plan is to create a montage of the videos to share with our staff and also post some of them on our social media sites.