



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **1. With the announcement our Governor Tony Evers made on school closure for the remainder of the school year we would like to know how the remainder of the school year will look like for MCPASD.**

We have been offering online instruction for all of our students, pre-kindergarten through 12th grade, since April 1. Now that Governor Evers has announced schools are closed through June 30, our plan is to continue with virtual instruction through the end of our school year, which is Friday, June 5 for most students.

The amount of time students put into virtual learning varies by school, grade level and family needs. We surveyed our families last week and more than 2,900 people responded. The vast majority said the difficulty of instruction was neither too easy or too difficult. Most of our families with elementary students indicated their children are online 1 to 4 hours a day. Most of our families with middle school and high school students indicated their children are online 3-4 hours a day.

### **2. What are some measures the district is taking to ensure equitable support to the families and students in the school district? For example what is working and what is not working with online instruction?**

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 3,000 Chromebook computers.

We have also provided MiFi devices for families who don't have internet access. We have made families aware of free internet access through some local providers. We have also shared with families hot spots in our area where they can go to access the internet.

Anecdotally, we have heard through our school social workers and student and family engagement specialists that the vast majority of our students are participating regularly in online instruction. The survey also indicated that. We know that some aren't engaging, but the reasons may include lack of a computer or internet access, but in many cases it is also because there are more pressing needs for the family right now.

### **3. How was the District able to identify what was needed and not needed to continue the support for our families?**

Besides surveying families, we have asked staff at our schools to check in regularly with families to find out how we can support their children. It is a balancing act, as we don'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 get honest feedback and information when they reach out.

### **4. What is MCPASD doing to continue supporting the families and students during this pandemic?**

Besides academic support, we realize many of our families may be concerned about feeding their children or being able to provide supplies for their households, especially if they are among the millions who are unemployed currently.

The second day our schools were closed -- Tuesday, March 17 -- we began a meal distribution program at nine sites around our District. Any person ages 18 or younger can come from 11 a.m. to noon on weekdays and get a free breakfast and lunch. Through the first 38 days of the program, more than 11,000 meals have been distributed.

The MCPASD Education Foundation and area churches continue to provide meals through the Weekend Food Program. They have expanded it and have 320 bags that are distributed on a first-come, first-serve basis at the meal distribution sites on Friday of each week.

The Education Foundation also raised funds to provide boxes of personal hygiene supplies, which are distributed every other Monday at the meal distribution sites. We ran out at 8 of our 9 sites on the first date in April so the Foundation increased the number of boxes from 200 to 300 for the second date on May 4. Luckily, we didn't run out that day.

### **5. Are there students that do not engage with online instruction?**

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

### **6. What are some support systems put in place for those students?**

Our staff continue to try and connect with those students and families to find out why and if there is anything we can do to help. I am part of a meeting involving school social workers, student and family engagement specialists and bilingual staff that meets at least once a week. The 25-plus staff members who participate in those meetings share what they learn as they have connected with those students and families. In many cases, it is important to note that those students aren't engaging because they dislike school or need support, but rather they and their families have other needs that are taking precedence. We need to be supportive and understanding of every situation.

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

We continue to work on a plan for summer school. Normally, we offer summer school for students in grades 7-12. They have the chance to earn credits in subjects they failed during the school year. The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction has indicated it will reimburse school districts that offer online remediation instruction for students in all grades this summer, however, we are still waiting to hear more details about what it might look like.

**8. Do you know if summer school will be an option, the frequency, virtual online instruction, how will it look? Can you share more about summer school?**

We will offer summer school, but it is difficult to say what it will look like at this point. We plan for summer school to begin on Monday, June 15 and to run for six weeks. Based on Governor Evers' order, unless something changes the first two weeks would need to be completely online. We are hoping those restrictions may be lifted starting July 1 and if they are we would like at least some of our summer school offerings to take place in our buildings.

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. The ones who are struggling and may need summer school need to know there is an option other than 100 percent online.

**9. What school grades are eligible for summer school?**

Normally, we offer summer school for students in grades 7-12. As I mentioned previously, if the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction offers reimbursement for online remediation instruction, in-school instruction or a blended model involving online and in-person, our plan would be to offer it to all students who need remediation help this summer.

**10. 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.

However, I want to stress this is tentative. We want to hold a ceremony but we need to make sure everyone is safe, too. We need to see where the state is relative to the Badger Bounce Back Plan that Governor Evers announced last month. If there are social distancing requirements and

restrictions on the size of gatherings, we will need to develop a different plan for the graduation ceremony. We have a team of high school staff and students developing options and ideas.

**11. 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 rest of the school closure?**

We plan to continue offering free meals at our nine distribution sites through June 30. We are waiting to hear from the federal government if we can continue with this model in July and August. If we get the OK, we may not be able to staff nine sites but we would like to have multiple locations where children can get the free breakfasts and lunches on weekdays.

If we don't get the OK, we will use our Summer Food Program, which we have offered the past few years, and children in our District can get free meals there. This year we were planning to offer the meals at Kromrey Middle School. We have used Middleton High School as the site the past few years but because of construction to rebuild and expand that school we thought it made more sense to have a new site this summer.

**12. 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 Friday, June 5 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 will have bags at all nine sites on Friday, May 15, Friday, May 22, Friday, May 29 and Friday, June 5. Boxes with personal hygiene supplies will be available at the nine sites on Monday, May 18 and Monday, June 1.

**13. 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.mcpasd.k12.wi.us](http://www.mcpasd.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.