



Middleton–Cross Plains
Area School District
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Hello District families,

As we enter the final few weeks of the 2019-20 school year for students, we know you have questions regarding not only the end of school year, but what things will look like for 2020-21. Please know that we have teams developing plans and will share them with you as soon as we have details.

We realize the challenges our families have faced these past few months have varied. For some, the focus has been less on learning and more on providing food, basic supplies, paying bills, and how to cover the rent or the mortgage. For others, the focus has been on what your children have missed out on with school buildings closed. Our focus has been on trying to provide what we can for our students and staff while hopefully lowering anxiety for everyone.

Here are the updates for Wednesday, May 20:

1. What are some current food resources available for families?

Families who currently receive FoodShare AND have a child(ren) who qualify for free/reduced lunch at school, you will have additional funds added to your Quest card automatically.

- If you've lost your Quest Card, you can call (877) 415-5164.

If your child(ren) qualifies for free/reduced lunch at school and you are NOT currently receiving FoodShare, you will be getting a letter in the mail and will automatically be sent a Pandemic EBT or P-EBT card that can be used to purchase food for your child(ren).

- If you do not get a letter by May 20 about the P-EBT card, you will need to apply for it. [Here is the link to apply for the P-EBT benefits.](#)
- Capital Consortium: Call (888) 794-5556 to talk to a person about state benefits.

You can **apply for FoodShare** (and other benefits) at <https://access.wisconsin.gov/access/>.

MCPASD will continue to have breakfast and lunch available at each of the nine meal distribution sites for anyone ages 18 or younger on weekdays from 11 a.m. to noon until June 30 with the exception of Memorial Day on May 25. The District is working on a plan to offer meals on weekdays in July and August. More information will be coming soon with summer meal locations and times.

The Weekend Food Program will continue to have food bags available on Fridays at the nine meal distribution sites. The community partners are working on a plan to offer the Weekend Food Program through the summer. More details to come.

The [Wisconsin Department of Health Services has information on its website](#) about food resources during COVID-19.

If you would like to talk with a local expert, please [email](#) MCPASD Nutrition Services specialist Amy Gundeck or call her at (608) 829-2344. And, as always, please reach out to the social worker at your child's school if you need any other help finding resources.

2. Are there resources families who speak multiple languages can access?

The World-class Instruction and Design Assessment (WIDA) consortium has a number of resources on how home languages play an important role in maintaining communications and relationships within families. Learn more on the [WIDA website](#).

WIDA encourages students and families to use this time to convey important family stories orally and even sing some songs in their home languages. Where possible, storybooks and reading together is time very well spent, too. If the books are in English, it's still worth having discussions about them in the home language. WIDA notes these rich cultural and linguistic interactions can bolster children's sense of themselves and their primary language skills. Research supports that ultimately it is easier to master a second (or third) language and school learning when your primary language, culture, and sense of identity are stronger.

To help educators promote the importance of home language with the students and families they serve, we've developed a visual resource in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

3. Are student services staff still available to help children and families?

Student Services staff at all of our schools continue to be available to support student and family needs during this time. If you have concerns about your child or if you would like assistance finding resources, Student Services contact information can be found on the website of the school your child attends. You can also let your child's teacher know and they will connect you with a member of your school's Student Services team.

For middle and high school students, you can access Student Services [here](#). Find your school and click on the Student Services Resources link to find contact information, age-appropriate mental health and social-emotional resources or to make an appointment with a Student Services staff member.

You will also find a list of community resources [here](#) on the District's COVID-19 Information & Updates page. This list is regularly updated by District Student Services staff in collaboration with community agencies.

4. Is there a deadline for middle and high school students to submit homework?

All work for students in grades 5-12 is due by the teacher's final stated due date for courses in BUZZ. Students will no longer have access to BUZZ courses or to submit work and assignments after Friday, June 5.

5. Do you have any Dane County health updates?

If anyone in your family would like to get to Dane County testing site but you don't have access to transportation, please reach out to your school social worker, bilingual staff or a student and family engagement specialist. They will be able to connect you with organizations that are providing free transportation.

6. Will you be providing library books for students?

We will not be offering curbside pick-up of books from our library-media centers in part because of the recent Dane County orders, in part to minimize the risk of infection to our staff and students and also because we have decided our buildings will remain closed through July.

The Madison Reading Project provided diverse books for children to take at all of the meal distribution sites on May 18. They are planning to provide more books at the sites on Monday, June 1. Please reach out to your school social worker, bilingual staff or a student and family engagement specialist before June 1 if you are interested in getting books.

7. Are you still accepting alternate school assignments for 2020-21?

If you wish to keep your child going into fourth or eighth grade in 2020-21 at their current school and not attend their new school due to internal boundary changes, please complete an alternate school assignment (ASA) request form. Please contact the principal or administrative assistant at your school to get a form or with additional questions.

8. What does the Forward Dane Phased Reopening Plan mean for MCPASD?

Because every county is now putting forward their own guidance and directives, anything that is put out by Dane County supersedes any other guidance/orders. So, for example, while the WIAA may indicate high school athletes can gather in the summer if the Dane County plan puts restrictions, we will need to follow them.

All District buildings continue to be closed through June 30 except for essential staff. We don't plan to open our buildings to outside organizations before Aug. 1 and it is likely our buildings will also be closed until Aug. 1 to staff and students as well. This also means all summer school instruction will be virtual through July 31.

Please read the [14-page Forward Dane Plan](#) to learn more.

9. Do you have an update on when students can get their personal belongings?

We are aware that some districts have already begun allowing students and families to come to schools to either retrieve their items or get them through a drive-up process. We have a team that is finalizing a general plan for items to be picked up and school materials, such as library books, to be dropped off. Schools will then finalize their individual plans and communicate them out to families. Our goal is to have something in place by early June.

No matter what process we use, our No. 1 priority will remain doing so in a way that keeps students, families and staff safe.