



MONTGOMERY HIGH SCHOOL

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Paul Popadiuk, Principal

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March 13, 2020

Dear MHS Parents/Students;

By their very nature, public schools are designed for active and collaborative learning with many opportunities for social interaction. However, it is essential to take a proactive and precautionary approach to reduce the risk for our students and staff. As you are aware, we have closed our building and are implementing a distance learning plan effective Monday, March 16, 2020, through Friday, March 27, 2020. All field trips, school events, and activities, including the SAT, are postponed effective immediately. During this time, email is the official mode of communication in the district. We ask that you email staff members directly if you have questions. Email addresses are the first initial of the person's first name followed by the last name @mtsd.us. Telephone communication as an initial means of communication will not be supported during this time.

We know we cannot fully replace the live classroom experiences that organically occur with teacher-student interactions and connections. We also know that we are charting unexplored territory as we implement remote learning for our students. However, we are hopeful that this experience will help all of us appreciate the expanded possibilities for students to hone their skills as 21st-century learners. Please note that distance learning days will fulfill the 180-day requirement under N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-9. If your child is unable to participate in distance learning activities due to illness, please mark them absent through the Parent Portal.

Please know we are here for you and will navigate this together! We will be available to answer questions you may have. If for some reason, you need to come to the building to pick up materials and resources, we will be happy to help. Our building will be open from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm on Monday, March 16, 2020, for students or parents to pick up essential materials. The building will not be accessible after this time.

The Montgomery School District is working closely with Chartwells, our food service vendor, to devise a plan to address the provision of meals to participants of the free and reduced lunch program throughout these remote learning school days. If you currently qualify for free and reduced lunch and wish to receive meals, please contact chartwells@mtsd.us.

Counselors and Child Study Team members will be available while we are engaged in distance learning. IEP meetings may need to be rescheduled or postponed. Your child's case manager will be in contact. If you or your child needs to access your counselor or case manager during our virtual school day, please email the counselor/case manager directly. Counselors and case managers will be maintaining office hours from 7:24 am to 11:44 am.

Below is the information for how students will complete their schoolwork from home:

- The *virtual school day* will run from 7:24 am - 11:44 am

7:24-7:53	Block A1
7:57 - 8:26	Block A2
8:30 - 8:59	Block A3
9:03 - 9:32	Block A4
9:36 - 10:05	Block B1
10:09 - 10:38	Block B2
10:42 - 11:11	Block B3
11:15 - 11:44	Block B4

- All teachers will have Google Classrooms where they will communicate all information, assignments, and course expectations during distance learning days.
- Teachers will be active and available to students in their Google Classrooms during their assigned teaching blocks.
- During our distance learning days, the teacher may allow students to comment in Google Classroom in order to increase teacher-student communication.
- Students are encouraged to follow their schedules and access all materials within the Google Classroom. If unable to, classroom content will remain available for them to access throughout the distance learning experience.
- Teachers will adapt learning activities with independent learning in mind. Whenever possible, audio and visual resources will be included. The goal of distance learning is continued academic engagement.
- The classroom codes for health/physical education are as follows:
 - Grades 9 and 10: ziqgkyp
 - Grades 11 and 12: tpwxwfu
- Teachers will be online from 7:20 am-11:44 am to answer student and parent emails.
- If you need distance learning tech support, there will be a link on the district website, as well as each school's website, entitled Distance Learning Tech Support. This link will bring you to a form to fill in for assistance.
- Parents will be responsible for monitoring students' use of technology. Please note that while at home, the school safety filter is not in place. The *Acceptable Use Policy* remains in effect.

We thank you for your patience and support as we work together to navigate these challenging times. Montgomery has always been and will continue to be a supportive and resilient community.

Warm regards,

Paul J. Popadiuk

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Principal