

Hello MHS Parents,

It's been over 170 days since we've had our high school students in the building in a normal learning setting. We've learned today; it will be several more days/weeks until we can welcome back our students.

Beginning Thursday, students of MHS will begin the school year with Distance Learning. It will look different than last spring. We've made changes and improvements that should hold students more accountable and keep them on a daily schedule. Students will be expected to attend their classes LIVE each day. MHS teachers will be teaching LIVE each day and your child is expected to attend, just like a regular school day. One significant improvement with LIVE classes will be the implementation of real-time attendance. It will be crucial to make sure your child is doing their job and reporting for class, on-time, each hour.

The 2020 MHS Distance Learning Plan will explain Distance Learning in great detail. This plan was developed after reading through your feedback from the Distance Learning Survey (sent out early in the summer) and was co-authored with MHS teacher input.

There will be some elective classes that won't start right away. You will be notified by Wednesday afternoon as to which classes those are. If you haven't picked up your child's school-issued device, this needs to be done by Wednesday, September 2. You'll need your Device Pledge Form filled out and turned in along with the other paperwork that was mailed to you. The office is open until 3:30 PM each day this week.

Distance Learning isn't how teachers, staff, or students wanted to start this school year. We have to stay positive and do the best we can each day until this pandemic is over. If parents do their job, if MHS students do their job, and the school does their job, we can have effective learning. Distance Learning is temporary, but we all have to do our jobs to start the year off right! Right now, we need to focus on getting our MHS students off to a good start academically! Hopefully, the positive COVID-19 cases subside over the next couple of weeks, and we can get our students back in the building.

I ask for your patience during our "Distance Learning" portion of this school year. Please remember that your child's teachers are doing their best. Their number one priority is to offer your child the best possible education. We will be flexible with many things, but we won't be flexible with unexcused late work or lack of attendance/participation. "Distance Learning" isn't optional, and it's to be treated with the same intensity as a typical 7-12 high school experience.

As students, parents, and teachers, we'll get through this challenging time because we are Vikings! Vikings have a strong work ethic, grit, and pride. We WILL get through this and WILL have students back at school at some point. As a parent myself and as your principal, that day can't come soon enough!

You can contact me via email or phone if you have any questions.

Jeremy Frie
High School Principal



ESSENTIAL INFORMATION REGARDING DISTANCE LEARNING MINNEOTA HIGH SCHOOL

Attendance - Students are expected to attend each class, each day in a synchronous format. This means that classes are “LIVE” each hour. **This is a change from the 4th-Quarter!** Students will follow their high school schedule and report for class digitally. Distance Learning is not optional, it’s required by law just like attending school in a traditional sense. Teachers will be taking daily/hourly attendance and the office will be calling parents (for unexcused absences, just like in a traditional sense). Students who are absent from class will be subject to disciplinary action per the student handbook. Students who are truant will be reported to the County, just like in a traditional sense. Per the direction of the Minnesota Department of Education, attendance must be taken each day. E-mails excusing student illness will not be accepted during Distance Learning, please call in!

- High school students will not have to report anywhere online during study hall.
- High school students who have online college classes will not have to report anywhere during those hours.
- Classes will be structured in a format of 25-minutes of direct instruction (or more, depending on the teacher) followed by 25-minutes of “work time”. During work time, students can ask questions/get extra help from their teachers.
- Some electives may be “paused” during distance learning. This means that the class will not take place during distance learning. Students will not be in danger of losing credits during “paused” distance learning. Parents will be notified if an elective is “paused” by e-mail.
- REACH courses will not necessarily be following these formats. They will follow guidelines set by MN West in conjunction with your Minneota teacher.

Grading/Academic Eligibility - The same grading scale we’ve traditionally used (school-wide) will still be used. There will be papers written, tests taken, presentations given, and daily work. The big difference will be the fact that it’s done in a Distance Learning format. If we’ve toggled to distance learning, we hope it won’t last more than a week or two.

**Quarters that are heavy on distance learning may be subject to be weighted less (for calculating semester grades) than traditional, in-person learning. These decisions are always made as a team by high school teachers, school administration, and the school board.*

Late Work Policy - Any work turned in one day late will result in a 15% reduction, anything turned in two days late and beyond will result in a 30% reduction. This is the policy we will use whether we are in a traditional format or in distance learning. It will be extremely important for your child to attend class and work hard in the distance learning format each day for each class.

The workload for Students- There will be anywhere from 25-50 minutes of learning/work for each class, each day. Some teachers will allow students to “log off” during work time if they don’t have questions/need help. With study halls and some electives being paused, we anticipate high school students to be online for 3-4 hours a day, cumulatively.

The workload for Teachers - Teachers will work their normal schedule. They will begin checking e-mail at 7:45 AM and will be available from 3:10-3:30 for parent phone calls/e-mail correspondence. They have the right to be offline during their study hall, prep, and lunch. Teachers will not be available online after 3:30 PM.

Parent Expectations

- Reinforce to your child that this is “school” and it’s not optional to do distance learning.
- Reinforce to your child that they are being graded and there will be a report card/credits earned.
- Reinforce to your child that quarter grades will have an impact on eligibility for sports/activities.
- Make sure your child is attending every class, every day.
- Check your e-mail on a regular basis; make sure you have a valid e-mail address on file.
- Encourage your child to do their own work and avoid the temptation of plagiarism/cheating. We have systems in place to ensure that students are doing their own work but please help us to ensure your child is doing their own work!
- If your child has been directly exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, please quarantine them. Notify Barb Knutson, our COVID-Coordinator with any information regarding your child needing to quarantine.

Student Expectations

- Students need to self-advocate and reach out to teachers if they need help. One of the best life skills a student can learn is how to advocate for themselves! Teach your child how to reach out and ask questions or to request additional help!
- Students need to check their MPS e-mail on a regular basis.
- Students need to participate in Distance Learning every day for every class.
- Students need to avoid procrastination and stay self-motivated.
- Students need to keep their cameras on and stay engaged in the “on-screen” lesson.

Hourly Schedule at MHS

1st Hour - 8:05-8:58

2nd Hour - 9:02-9:55

3rd Hour - 9:59-10:52

4th Hour - 10:56-11:49

5th Hour - Lunch B (Grades 7-9) 11:53-12:46 Lunch A (Grades 10-12) 12:19-1:12

6th Hour - 1:16-2:09

7th Hour - 2:13-3:06

There will be no Hometeams or different Wednesday schedule until students are back in the building.