
SPECIAL EMAIL FROM MHS 11/17/2020

Please see UPDATES in RED below

Hello Chemic Families,

With Sunday evening's announcement by Governor Whitmer to move all high schools to remote learning, I wanted to communicate with families with as much detail as possible to alleviate anxiety. Please keep this guide throughout our remote learning time as it contains valuable information.

First, remote learning this time around will be very different from last time. We now have a learning management system (CANVAS) which teachers have spent countless hours learning how to use. Teachers have also practiced using CANVAS with students since school started. Pivoting to remote instruction has been a point of discussion since school opened and teachers have planned accordingly. Because of this, we aim to deliver high quality instructional experiences to all students that closely parallel, to the extent feasible, face to face learning.

It is important to me that all Chemics are still provided with the solid academic experiences that prepare them for their post-secondary plans. If you feel that your teen is not receiving the rigor required to reach their goals, I urge you contact me. Likewise, if your son/daughter is overwhelmed by remote learning, it is also important to communicate those struggles with me so I can find ways to support all students during this time. I recognize that our older students are often tasked with helping younger siblings with homework, working to support their household, caring for those afflicted with the virus and a variety of other challenges. We are here to help all students; students have varying needs.

With Chemic Pride,

Tracy Speaker-Gerstheimer, Principal

ATTENDANCE

1. You will be able to see your child's attendance in HAC
2. It is important that you monitor your child's attendance
3. On days when synchronous (LIVE) learning takes place, your teen's teacher will record either A: absent or PVC: present virtual classroom in HAC by 5:00 PM
4. If your student is too ill to participate in remote learning, please call: **Attendance Hotline at (989) 923-5190** and leave a message or Karen Dralle at (989) 923-5184
5. Our nightly call outs to parents regarding attendance will be disabled on Wednesday

WHAT ARE MY SON/DAUGHTER'S SCHOOL HOURS/WHAT IS THE SCHEDULE?

1. You should see your child engaged in school from 7:40-2:25 PM. If your teen has a 7th period, their school day will go to 3:25.
2. Please look at the schedule attached here. [High School Remote Learning Schedule 20-21 - Student Schedule - Weeks 1 and 2.pdf](#) It is written in a "student/parent" friendly format.
3. We know that teens are not necessarily alert in the morning. Please help us by encouraging your son/daughter to maintain a regular schedule during remote learning.
4. You will notice that there will be periods of direct "LIVE" instruction mixed with periods of independent work time. We know that teens can procrastinate. Please help us by encouraging your teen to manage their time appropriately.

HOW MUCH WORK SHOULD MY TEEN HAVE?

1. Your son/daughter should be engaged in a full day of learning, again from 7:40-2:25 PM with a few short breaks, including lunch. Your teen should be engaged in five hours of work per week per class, for a **minimum** of 30 hours.
2. You should see your teen engaged in virtual meetings with their class, doing work independently, reading and working on projects, homework, practicing problems, writing papers, working virtually with a partner, etc. If your teen uses their time wisely, they should be able to complete their work in one school day (7:40-2:25).

HOW WILL MY CHILD BE GRADED?

1. At the beginning of the year, teachers provided your son/daughter with a syllabus for each course. That syllabus is still applicable - as are all the expectations the teacher has outlined. This includes the teacher's policy on late work, grade weights, participation expectations, tests, quizzes, etc.
2. Teachers will provide additional information (in writing) this week if they plan to change their syllabus.
3. If something is due, it is DUE. If your teen misses a deadline, his/her grade will likely be impacted. Again, communication with the teacher is key if there is a legitimate reason for missing a due date.

WHAT IF WE ARE HAVING TECHNOLOGY ISSUES?

1. We have all experienced problems with connectivity at one time or another. Keep trying. We did experience some lags last spring when we were all working in our remote environments. With multiple users on at the same time (children at home) this may happen. I assure you that teachers understand this and will be flexible, but your son/daughter must communicate with teachers immediately if they are having difficulty. Together we can troubleshoot problems along the way.
2. If your teen is having any technology issues please call the MPS Help Desk at 989-923-5119 or email them at help@midlandps.org. They will work directly with you and your student to resolve the problem. You may also visit their website and find additional information at [Visiting MPS Admin Building for IT Help](#). You may also find helpful information at [MPS Help Desk Knowledge Base](#)

COUNSELING

Counselors will be available by email and phone Monday - Friday from 7AM-3PM. Counselors will continue to support students' social and emotional needs, monitor academic progress, and help with post-secondary planning. The counseling contact information is below.

Ms. Harrold (*Students: A - Harris*): Harroldjd@midlandps.org (989) 923-5203

Ms. Stepaniak (*Students: Harry - Peacock*): Stepaniakhm@midlandps.org (989) 923-5211

Ms. Theisen (*Students: Peck - Zook*): Theisenmb@midlandps.org (989) 923-5203

Post-Secondary guidance, please contact: Ms. Barnes, College and Career Advisor: Barnesna@midlandps.org

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Athletic Practices for all winter sports have been paused until at least December 8th according to the MDHHS order. Coaches will communicate ideas for individual skill work and plans for conditioning and fitness with athletes and will schedule virtual meeting opportunities with their teams. Any remaining fall post-season meetings will occur virtually or will wait until in-person meetings are possible.

FOOD SERVICE

1. Saturday, 11/21 meal pick-up at Central Park Elementary and Midland High School (9:00-11:00 a.m.) for all MPS students (3 days of meals provided)
2. Tuesday, 11/24 meal pick-up at all elementary buildings (11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.) for all MPS students (5 days of meals provided)
3. Saturday, 11/28 meal pick-up at CPE and MHS (9:00-11:00 a.m.) for all MPS students (2 days of meals provided)
4. Saturday, 12/19 meal pick-up at CPE and MHS (9:00-11:00 a.m.) for all MPS students (3 days of meals provided)
5. Tuesday, 12/22 meal pick-up at all elementary buildings (11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.) for all MPS students (5 days of meals provided)
6. Saturday, 12/26 meal pick-up at CPE and MHS (9:00-11:00 a.m.) for all MPS students (3 days of meals provided)
7. Tuesday, 12/29 meal pick-up at all elementary buildings (11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.) for all MPS students (5 days of meals provided)
8. Saturday, 1/2/21 meal pick-up at CPE and MHS (9:00-11:00 a.m.) for all MPS students (2 days of meals provided)

PICTURE RETAKES

The original date of December 2, 2020 for picture retakes has been cancelled. If/when retakes are rescheduled, we will post the date.

BUILDING ACCESS/HOURS/LOCKERS

1. MHS offices will be open from 7:30 - 3:30 PM, Monday through Friday. The rest of the building will be closed.
2. Keep in mind that we will still observe holiday hours on November 26 and 27 and December 23-January 1. The building (including the office) will be closed during this time.
3. If your teen DID NOT retrieve all items from their locker before transitioning to remote, please call Cheryl Gardner at 989-923-5188 or email at gardnercl@midlandps.org curbside pick up will be done on Tuesdays ONLY.

USEFUL CONTACTS for INFORMATION DURING REMOTE LEARNING

1. Counselor (Last Names: A-Harris) Jessica Harrold, harroldjd@midlandps.org, 989-923-5203
2. Counselor (Last Names: Harry-Peacock) Hayley Stepaniak, stepaniakhm@midlandps.org, 989-923-5211
3. Counselor (Last Names: Persyn-Z) Misty Theisen, theisenmb@midlandps.org, 989-923-5205
4. IB Coordinator, Kelly Murphy, murphyke@midlandps.org, 989-923-5202
5. **Attendance Hotline 989-923-5190** or Karen Dralle, drallekm@midlandps.org, 989-923-5184.
6. Transcripts, Work Permits and Lockers, Cheryl Gardner, gardnercl@midlandps.org, 989-923-5188
7. General Questions, Lori Kennemer, kennemerlj@midlandps.org, 989-923-5185
8. Edgenuity Questions, Jeff Lauer, lauerjm@midlandps.org, 989-923-5084
9. Special Education Questions, Paula Hopkins, hopkinspl@midlandps.org, 989-923-5210
10. Scheduling Questions, Assistant Principal, Matt Wenzell, wenzellmb@midlandps.org, 989-823-5215
11. Athletic Questions, Eric Albright, albrightet@midlandps.org, 989-923-5217
12. Attendance Questions (Last Names A-L) Robert Scurfield, scurfieldrj@midlandps.org, 989-923-5197 and/or (Last Names M-Z) Andrea Jozwiak, jozwiakam@midlandps.org, 989-923-5213
13. Principal, Tracy Speaker-Gerstheimer, speakertk@midlandps.org, 989-923-5187