



# Weekly Newsletter

April 2, 2020



## News/Updates

On Tuesday a survey was emailed directly to Middle School families to gather feedback to help us move forward with remote learning during this healthcare crisis. Thank you for sharing your personal situations and views on what we have been doing so far. These past few weeks have been a time of adjustment for all of us and some have had an easier time than others. If you did not receive the survey email, please find it here;

**MMS Remote Learning Family Check-in**



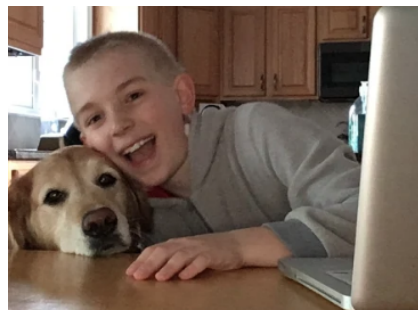
**<https://tinyurl.com/vnz5ryl>**

After reading initial responses, it's important to acknowledge the following:

- We are grateful for those of you in the healthcare field and first responders for the amazing, selfless work you are doing.
- We have empathy for those of you who now find yourselves trying to be teachers to your children, while also trying to work at home - as many of our teachers are.
- We recognize that many of your challenges at home take precedence over supervising your children's schoolwork and we appreciate your efforts!
- We recognize that some of you are looking for more work, more support, and more structure - while some of you have all you can handle right now. We are trying to find balance and meet all needs as best we can.
- We have empathy for those of you who are caring for family members, friends, or colleagues who are sick.
- We have empathy for those of you who are worried about elderly family members or friends or relatives with compromised immune systems.
- We have empathy for those of you who are suddenly unemployed due to these unfortunate circumstances.

Ultimately, we are acutely aware that we will need to be ready to meet students where they are when we are able to return to school. We will need to have a fluid and flexible approach. In light of this, our work to date on personalizing learning will serve us well in the months ahead. We are responding to the current situation by designing remote learning activities.

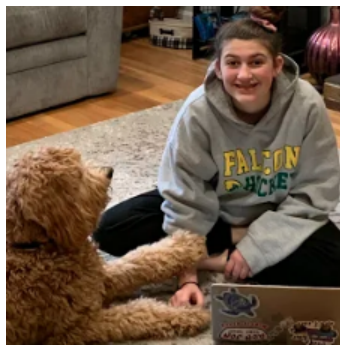
## Remote Learning



When the governor announced that schools would be closed through May 4, the MPS staff rallied immediately to begin to collaborate on a plan for continuing learning for our students. We know your minds are racing ahead and you want to know what that will look like for you during the month of April. Here's what we can tell you at this time:

- Teachers are meeting virtually every day to plan and reflect. By Friday we want to make sure we have connected in some fashion with every family. If we reach out to you, it is not to be critical but to simply connect because we haven't heard from your child.
- Teachers planned engaging activities these first weeks in order to hook students, develop routines and prevent regression. We intend to slowly move forward with new learning.
- We are easing into different aspects of remote learning with students to see what works. Some teachers are trying Google Meetings this week, being mindful that some students can't participate. We are using feedback on the surveys to adjust our practices.
- We are doing our best to understand & accommodate every family situation.
- We are working out how to best provide academic, emotional, and social support for students who need it. Please reach out if your child needs more support.
- We are examining student privacy concerns relative to various web-based applications.
- We are providing devices for students and assisting families with Internet access in addition to providing meals to any Millis family that would benefit.
- We are examining the inequity that remote learning exacerbates and working to find solutions. We will do our best not to let anyone fall behind.
- Teachers are not grading work in the traditional sense, however they are keeping track of participation and assignment completion and providing feedback to the extent possible.
- We are collaborating with other districts and using guidelines from the Department of Education during this crisis to assist in creating a long term Remote Learning Plan. We will provide more specific details and share that plan with the community as soon as possible.

## Looking Ahead



We know our students are wondering about the future of sports, end of the year field trips, transitions, and 8th grade promotion activities. We are discussing all of these things because they are on our minds as well! Our year has been seriously disrupted and we are hopeful for a return to a familiar routine after May 4. We hope to be able to hold end of the year events and activities, but at this time all dates are tentative. Please stay tuned.

For sports updates and the latest MIAA information, follow Chuck Grant on Twitter @grant\_chuck.

Be sure to sign up for MPS district and school newsletters/listserv on the MPS Website under Community > Newsletters > Subscribe.

## Tips for Families



Some helpful suggestions if needed:

- Review the Monday weekly email from the grade level team with your child.
- Create a daily schedule with your child that works for your family.
- Make a list of work. Use a calendar to plan when to work on various weekly assignments and schedule Google Meet sessions. Have a designated work space.
- If your child needs more personalized attention, please do not hesitate to contact a teacher - they want to know.
- If you find yourself needing a device in the weeks to come, just let us know.
- If you find you could benefit from prepared breakfast & lunch meals in the weeks to come, just pull up to the school entrance any M, W, F between 7:30 and 10am. If you need more than that, just let us know.
- If your child needs something from a locker, they can email Mrs. Knowlton.
- If all else fails, encourage reading!

