

MAYWOOD

Michael Jordan
Superintendent

Telephone
201-845-9114

School Closure Update March 24, 2020

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District Community:

If I have to be honest then I have to say that I am miserable as I write this communication. I along with educators from around the state are like fish out of water and feel miserable deep down inside because we are missing what makes schools such a great place to be - the kids. They make the buildings come alive and we as educators live vicariously through them each and every day. Although teaching and learning will take place in a distance learning structure for however long it has to, it simply is not the same. The good times, bad times, happy and sad times that we share with kids every day is what is missing and nothing can simulate that.

My heart breaks for these kids and the rest of the kids in our state who should be enjoying the lead up to spring, the practices and rehearsals for upcoming concerts and performances, the crack of the bat on the softball and baseball fields and that feeling of anticipation that graduation for some and summer for others is right around the corner. My heart breaks also for the families in this district and all of our staff because this is not just a school issue but instead this unreal moment in time is impacting you and your families as well in ways including childcare, care for elderly parents and at times employment based on your chosen field in this unprecedented time in our lives. Let's face it, this is not ideal but we must remember that in numbers there is strength. We are all in this together and we all benefit from our collective efforts more so now than ever before. Therefore, will education continue? Yes, Will kids and teachers alike find creative ways to make those lasting connections? Yes.

The work that our staff has done thus far has been incredible and it has not been school by school or grade level by grade level or subject by subject. Instead it has been a unified effort with teachers sharing across schools, grade levels and subject areas like never before. It has reminded us that although kids love their respective school, whether it is Memorial or MAS, that now we are truly One Staff, One Student Body and One School. We all need to embrace that and reach out to others regardless of grade level, school or homeroom teacher. This is a time when there really cannot be any boundaries to reaching out to anyone.

Lastly, more important than school and work and all the rest of the things we normally worry about, we need to worry about ourselves, our family and our neighbors. I ask for help in sharing with friends and neighbors who do not have children in our District to go to our website at maywoodschoools.org and become a registered member. This will allow them to receive e blasts and have access to any and all content on the website. We consistently work closely with the Mayor and Council, Emergency Services and OEM and we share any and all info from all of these incredibly important organizations. Now more than ever we all need to be informed. So whether they register on the website because they want to know who won the Geography Bee or where the Memorial Valentine Tea will take place, they will also be receiving critical information that is important to all of us as we battle through this period in our lives. Ask them to take advantage of this opportunity and stay informed.

I have attached some pictures for you to lift your spirits. Today, the staff at HUMC started to receive cards of love and support from Maywood students. As you can see documented in these pictures, even the smallest acts of kindness matter in the biggest of ways.

The Maywood School District hopes everyone stays safe and healthy. This too shall pass.

Sincerely,

Michael Jordan

Superintendent of Schools

CLOSURE UPDATE

Google Meet, Zoom, Screencastify Tutorials

As noted in prior communications, we will begin to rely more heavily on real time on line audio/video platforms to provide teaching and learning opportunities as well as related services. The District will rely heavily on GoogleMeet as we are a Google district and the ease of use for our students as each of them have a Gmail account with the district domain of @maywoodschools.org lends itself to our purposes. Zoom and Screencastify may be used as well but not as often as Google Meet. Please find below tutorials and guides that may assist you in getting your home devices ready for use. We ask that students and parents alike in all grade levels review the tutorials to make the transition as smooth as possible for all involved.

Google Meet

<https://support.google.com/a/users/answer/9300131?hl=en>
<https://support.google.com/a/users/answer/9282720?hl=en>

Zoom

<https://zoom.us/docs/en-us/covid19.html>
https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/204772869-Zoom-Rooms-User-Guide?mobile_site=true

Screencastify

<https://help.screencastify.com/category/131-initial-setup>
<https://help.screencastify.com/>
<https://www.screencastify.com/blog/beginners-guide-educators>
<https://help.screencastify.com/collection/128-user-guide>

Kindergarten Registration Postponed

Unfortunately, our Kindergarten Registration scheduled for Monday, 3/30, Tues, 3/31, Wed., 4/1 and Thursday, 4/2 has been postponed until further notice.

Bergen Teen Arts Festival

The Bergen Teen Arts Festival scheduled for May has been canceled. The event each year takes place on the campus of Bergen Community College which has closed for the remainder of the school year.

AUP Form Completion (by no later than March 25)

Please complete the form found in the link below for each child in your family who attends the Maywood School District by no later than March 25th. By completing the form you will be acknowledging that you have reviewed and understand the information found above.

<https://forms.gle/7WCWGKvCmWwFa2sz8>

CLOSURE RECAP

MAS & Memorial Student/Staff Spirit Week

Wednesday, March 25

School Spirit Day

Show off your pride in your school and wear as much Memorial and/or MAS gear as possible while working at home.

Please send pictures to mjordan@maywoodschools.org so we can post them on our Twitter site @MAYWOODSCHOOLS and our website, to put smiles on everyone's faces.

Emotional Well-Being

Continuing to focus on all of our mental health and stress levels I am providing further resources below.

Here are some online mental health resources:

- [Emotional Well-being During the COVID-19 Outbreak](#)
- [Top Helpline Resources from National Alliance on Mental Illness \(NAMI\)](#)
- [Corona Virus Anxiety Help from NAMI](#)

Helpful Apps for Coping with stress:

[Breath to relax](#)

Breathe2Relax is a portable stress management tool which provides detailed information on the effects of stress on the body and instructions and practice exercises to help users learn the stress management skill called diaphragmatic breathing.

[HAPPIFY](#)

Happify is the single destination for effective, evidence-based solutions for better mental health. The link is to the website, but you can also download the App through Apple.

[Sanvello for Stress and Anxiety](#)

Whether you manage a condition like anxiety or depression, deal with stress, or want to improve your overall mental well-being, Sanvello gives you the help, support, and resources you need to feel more in control and happier over time.

Check Website

We ask that you please check the website by 8 pm each day and click on the link labeled "SCHOOL CLOSURE UPDATE." That link is found in the middle of the homepage at <https://www.maywoodschools.org>

Distance Learning Daily Schedule

Period 1	9:30 - 9:55 AM
Period 2	10:00 - 10:25 AM
Period 3	10:30 - 10:55 AM
Period 4	11:00 - 11:25 AM
Period 5/6	11:30 - 11:55 AM
LUNCH	12:00 - 12:30 PM
Period 7	12:30 - 12:55 PM
Period 8	1:00 - 1:30 PM

Free/Reduced Lunch

Lunch Distribution will take place at MAS for both schools on the backfield from 12:00 – 12:30 PM daily beginning on March 18th for those students who are eligible.

Technology Troubleshooting/Questions

Please email any of the following staff members:

kmarie@maywodoschools.org

sdamania@maywoodschoools.org

jerryv@maywoodschoools.org

Parent Resources (Virus Related)

Families are again encouraged to read and stay updated through official communication channels such as:

[2019 Novel CoronaVirus -Site to be Updated Frequently](#)

[Communicable Diseases - New Jersey Dept. of Health](#)

<https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/ncov.shtml>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/guidance-for-schools.html>

Teacher/Parent Resources (Technology/Distance Learning)

These sites are offering very good tools for free at times as well as ideas to assist in distance learning planning and related activities.

<https://chalkbeat.org/posts/us/2020/03/12/coronavirus-schools-testing-department-of-education/>

<https://www.albert.io/blog/tools-for-distance-learning/>

<https://twitter.com/numbots/status/1238489028053340161?s=09>

[https://educators.brainpop.com/2020/02/19/free-brainpop-access-for-schools-affected-by-the-corona-](https://educators.brainpop.com/2020/02/19/free-brainpop-access-for-schools-affected-by-the-corona-virus/?utm_source=organic&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=coronavirus&utm_content=free-access)

[virus/?utm_source=organic&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=coronavirus&utm_content=free-access](https://educators.brainpop.com/2020/02/19/free-brainpop-access-for-schools-affected-by-the-corona-virus/?utm_source=organic&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=coronavirus&utm_content=free-access)

<https://newsela.com/about/distance-learning/>

<https://teachercenter.withgoogle.com/resources/general/details?key=ahpzfmd3ZWItZWR1LXRyYWluaW5nLWNlbnRlcnlCcxIPR2VuZXJhbFJlc291cmNIGICAqKzjo8cIDA>

<https://kahoot.com/blog/2020/02/27/kahoot-free-access-schools-higher-education-coronavirus/>

https://www.engadget.com/amp/2020/03/03/google-makes-hangouts-meet-features-free-in-the-wake-of-coronavirus/?_twitter_impression=true

<https://mysteryscience.com/school-closure-planning>

<https://t.co/paSYxd8e00>

<https://t.co/FbzlnQsl3f>

4thekids.idecorp.com