

School Closure Update

April 20, 2020

Good evening, I hope this communication finds you and your family safe and healthy. I reach out with an update as noted below.

Take care,
Michael Jordan

TUESDAY - Catch Up Day

A reminder that Tuesday, the 21st is our first CATCH UP day for students and staff.

Self Care Week

Please log on to the school website at maywoodschools.org and click on the middle of the page where it says, "MINDFULNESS MOMENT". You will find three new videos from our guidance counselors taking in mind the importance of stress reduction and mindfulness. The mental health of individuals can become more fragile as this situation continues. If you feel your child would benefit from a call from his or her school counselor, please send an email request.

Memorial School - Carly Byrnes cbyrnes@maywoodschools.org

Maywood Avenue School- Kerry Leto

kletto@maywoodschools.org

Mental Health America Resources

Michele Hart-Loughlin is the Division Director of the Division of Mental Health Services for the Bergen County Department of Health Services and she passed along this incredible resource. Mental Health America has captured many resources that may help people cope with the anxiety, stress and fear associated with the pandemic and promotes emotional wellness.

<https://mhanational.org/covid19>

Fordham Institute Resource Index

Please find the following link that directs you to the Fordham Institute's COVID 19 REsource page for info on a myriad of useful tools.

<https://fordhaminstitute.org/covid-19-home-learning>

District Scholastic Book Fair

April 15 - 28

<https://bookfairs.scholastic.com/bookfairs/cptoolkit/homepage.do?method=homepage&url=maywoodavenueschool>

Please note that the link states MAS but this is a districtwide book fair during the closure. Once on the site it will direct you to the grade specific items. Have fun !

School Closure Length

As per the Governor's statement of last week, all New Jersey Schools will remain closed until at least May 15th. Distance learning will continue until such time that there is new information.

School Calendar Impact

As per executive order, all distance learning from the start of the closure until the end of the closure will count towards the mandated 180 day requirement. Therefore, our calendar will not be impacted.

Academic Items

Please see a copy of the new grading rubric at the bottom of this message. As a reminder, all state assessments scheduled for the spring of 2020 have been canceled in the entire state. Scheduling for current grade levels at MEM and MAS continues during the closure and scheduling of current 8th graders for freshman year at Becton is close to being finished. We are in communication with Becton and the hopes is to have a virtual open house shortly in lieu of the anticipated building tour/open house that would have otherwise been planned if the crisis did not happen.

Technology

Families in need of a chromebook as time continues should email their respective building principals. The district is strictly using GoogleMeet as its online platform as opposed to Zoom.

Kindergarten Registration

All kindergarten registration has shifted to our website. Any in person registration and screenings will take place at a later time. However, it is important to register online at maywoodschoools.org prior to May 15th. We ask everyone to please spread the word to those in the community you know who expect to register their child for kindergarten for the 20-21 school year.

Staffing Update

We are saddened that the last year prior to retirement had to be this way for our four retirees in Mr. Bauer, Ms. DeNichlo, Ms. Cook and Ms. Pope. We hope to honor them in a fitting way when things return to normalcy. Interviews for the vacated positions continue during the closure via virtual interview platforms.

"Maywood PTO 2.0"

If this crisis has taught us anything it is that we are stronger as a collective district than as individual schools. The uniqueness of our individual schools will never be set aside but as we have come together as a staff, parent community and student body, so too will we harness the strength of a combined PTO. Members of both executive boards of the MAS and MEM PTOs will meet virtually this week with admin in what is being labeled "Maywood PTO 2.0". The initial meeting will be one of brainstorming and using the resources and skill sets of both PTOs for the betterment of the district in this time of need. We will announce a Maywood PTO 2.0 virtual parent meeting for any parent interested in attending shortly.

Field Trips/Graduations

District admin and staff met today virtually with the MAS Student Council. The agenda items centered on the field trips and the graduations that may be in jeopardy due to the crisis that we are in. Many districts across the State have canceled and/or adjusted field trips and graduations already. We would like to begin to roll out decisions by next week as to plans for things such as Fairview Lake, Washington DC and the graduations at both buildings and brainstorming sessions for how to plan for alternatives.

Ms. Leto's GOOGLE CLASSROOM

CODE: ZRCKWW3

MAS students are asked to check in this week.

Grading Action Plan for Extended Closure

The following outlines our action plan with the assumption that the closure will be more long term than expected. If for any reason the closure ends sooner than anticipated we will develop another action plan that includes the updated information that would be available to us.

The District created this action plan with the following goals in mind:

- No student will be negatively impacted by the closure
- Remote learning can only improve a student's current academic standing.
- Teachers will expect students to complete assigned work and return it for feedback and eventually record progress of meeting their learning goals.
- Teachers will make every effort to continue to assess and record students' learning. Genesis Gradebook is open to teachers for input and will be open for MAS families (grades portal) beginning April 20th.
- Some assessments will be delivered via technology while others may occur through video conferencing and paper-pencil tasks.
- Students will be graded based upon their completion, submission, and understanding of their work, in combination with assessments.
- There needs to be clear evidence that the student made an effort during the closure, attended classes and completed required assignments.

Maywood Avenue School

The remainder of the year will be considered a SEMESTER which will run From April 3rd to the end of the year (the only exception is cycle specials that meet for only one marking period). We will meld the 3rd Marking Period and the 4th Marking Period together and make it one Semester instead of two separate marking periods. The final report card will have the grades for marking periods 1, 2 and semester 3 as one grade. The Semester grade may instead be Pass/Fail based on teacher discretion.

Memorial School

- No grading/report cards for 3rd Marking Period
- Kindergarten will ONLY be graded using Achievement/Effort Grades (E, S, S+, N)
- Grades 1 - 3 will be graded as normal OR using Achievement/Effort Grades (E, S, S+, N). This is based on teacher discretion.

The 4th Marking Period will be as follows for Grades 1-3

Example of a student who is keeping up with distance learning classes, handing in assignments, and has been generally doing the same level of work they performed in the 1st & 2nd Marking Period.

Grading will be as follows:

No changes in grading rubric. Grading will proceed as usual.

Example of a student who struggled before distance learning and is continuing to struggle. This student will be graded according to effort using Achievement/Effort Grades (E, S, S+, N).

Grading will be as follows:

Grade K

MP1 = 2

MP 4 = 2

MP 4 Semester = S

Grade 1, 2 & 3

MP1= D

MP 2= C

MP 4 Semester = S

Example for a student who was making progress before distance learning and is struggling with the transition to distance learning. This student will be graded according to effort using Achievement/Effort Grades (E, S, S+, N).

Grading will be as follows:

Grade K

MP1 = 3

MP 4 = 3

MP 4 Semester = S

Grade 1, 2 & 3

MP1= B

MP 2= A

MP 4 Semester = S

MAYWOOD WEEK OF SELF-CARE

April 20 - 24



Monday, April 20

Be Mindful & Be Kindful Day

Do something kind for someone in your home.

Tuesday, April 21

Happiness Day

Do or find something that makes you happy.

Wednesday, April 22

Caring Day

Find ways to show you care- letters/pictures for essential workers. Students/Families/staff can leave pictures/letters for mail carriers, grocery store workers, hospital staff etc.

Thursday, April 23

Reach Out and Connect Day

Reach out to friends, family or someone who may need a friend- a phone call, zoom chat, facetime, letter in the mail or email

Friday, April 24

We Are Blue Without You Day

Wear Blue

SPIRIT WEEK
APRIL 27 - MAY 1

Monday, April 27

Tie Day

Wear a Tie to Virtual School



Tuesday, April 28

Stuffed Animal Day

Bring your favorite Stuffed Animal to school today.



Wednesday, April 29

UGLY SWEATER DAY

Wear your Ugliest Sweater that you own.



Thursday, April 30

Catch - Up Day & Ketchup Day

Utilize the day to "Catch - Up" on any assignments or studying you need to do. And have some Ketchup with either your breakfast, lunch, or dinner.



Friday, May 1

SCHOOL SPIRIT Day

Show your MAS & Memorial Spirit by wearing some school swag!!



MAYWOOD FAMILY FUN NIGHTS

TUESDAY, APRIL 21
VIRTUAL FAMILY BINGO NIGHT
7:00 PM

Enjoy a night of virtual Family Bingo !! Teachers and other special guests will be the BINGO callers !

B I N G O				
1	27	33	48	75
8	19	45	56	61
3	18	FREE SPACE	49	69
15	26	41	53	66
2	21	37	46	65

FRIDAY, APRIL 24
VIRTUAL TALENT SHOW
7:00 PM

The District Virtual Talent Show will be released online at 7pm for the national debut!!

