

School Closure Update

April 27, 2020

Good evening. I hope this communication again finds you and your loved ones safe and healthy. The Governor intrigued many by an early morning interview where he touched upon the opening of schools as a possibility. He went on to state that he would discuss the “reopening” plan for the State at the press conference this afternoon. Unfortunately he did not address the school component but instead noted that he will not revisit the decision until May 15th. I will be attending a zoom meeting with the Commissioner of Education on Wednesday afternoon and hope to be able to provide everyone with an update that evening.

Take care.

Thanks

A simple but big thanks to the emergency services and governing body in Maywood. Each Monday morning the school is invited to attend an OEM planning meeting which allows for members of the school to interface with the Mayor & Council, PD, FD, OEM, DPW and others so as to start the week with an overview of where we have been and what to expect. We greatly appreciate these individuals and the organizations they represent for always thinking of our schools.

Catch Up Day

A reminder that the next District “Catch Up Day” is this Thursday, the 30th.

Tuesday Spirit Day

Tuesday is bring your favorite stuffed animal(s) to virtual learning day! This is one that we are looking forward to! Please send pics to

mjordan@maywoodschools.org and check Twitter @MAYWOODSCHOOLS throughout the day for the fun pics.

Upcoming Additions

To be discussed at team leader meetings later this week, we will begin to announce continued initiatives to try to bring a sense of normalcy to our kids as best we can. We anticipate beginning programs that will encompass the concepts of “story time” with our younger population, “chats about current events” with our older students and the chance for all students to interface with school administration each week at specific times. Again, all in the vein of trying to normalize a situation that is far from normal. Stay tuned.

Scavenger Hunt

Get ready for the next SCAVENGER HUNT. Be on the lookout for the email at 7 pm on Tuesday that starts the clock on the race to submit the selfie with all of the items!

Where Am I?

A new twist is on its way Thursday night at 7 pm when we will add “WHERE AM I?” to our Family Fun Nights. Families will be sent pictures of places in and around our schools, some missing things and some not so apparent, and it will be the task of our families to identify and race the clock to submit answers!

Student Council Meeting

The next meeting of the MAS Student Council is this Thursday. At that time the 8th grade officers will meet with the grade 8 team of teachers and admin as a follow up to a very productive first meeting of last week. The students were tasked with brainstorming ideas for potential modifications to normal year end grade 8 functions. We look forward to using their ideas as we begin to plan for any changes going forward.

Grade 8 Parents

As mentioned above, the MAS Student Council will meet with admin and staff Thursday. Following that meeting we will plan a grade 8 parent meeting for a date to be determined next week to discuss and brainstorm for year end modifications. We will send out a google doc to all grade 8 parents in advance for feedback and then we will hold a meeting with Grade 8 PTO parent officers to discuss further. Stay tuned.

Maywood Schools' Food Pantry

Drop off Dates/Times

Tuesday, April 28 10 AM - 12 PM

Sunday, May 3 11 AM - 1 PM

MAS Lot

Please drive into the Maywood Avenue lot and follow the cones that will be set up. Please stay in your car and follow the drop off location route. Please remain in your car until the car in front of you has dropped off and left. Simply pull up to the sign that indicates the end of the line and proceed by dropping off items in the designated location. Please return to your car and then exit accordingly out of the parking lot via the designated cones. We ask that during the drop off everyone wear a mask and gloves.

We especially need:

1. Any type of ready-to-eat **Microwave Meals** (Kraft, Chef Boyardee, Hormel, Barilla, etc.)
2. Canned **Meat/Fish** - Tuna, Chicken, Salmon, Ham, etc.
3. Canned **Stew or Chili**

4. Canned Soup or Boxed Soup Mix
5. Pancake or Waffle Mix
6. Boxed Baking Mixes - Cake, Cookie, Muffin, Brownie
7. Peanut Butter and Jelly
8. Applesauce
9. Canned Vegetables
10. Canned Fruit or Fruit Cups
11. Canned Pasta
12. Pasta Sauce
13. Boxed and microwavable Macaroni and Cheese
14. Side Dishes - Potatoes, Rice, Stuffing, etc.
15. Gift cards to Shoprite/BJs/Costco, etc *Please no candy or beverages.

Maywood Girl Scouts Initiative

The Maywood Girl Scout Troops want to thank Maywood Marketplace workers who make sure we can have the food we need, Maywood Fire Police, and the doctors, nurses and staff at HUMC and Valley Hospital. They are asking for help by donating boxes of cookies to say thank you!

Go to:

<https://www.gsnnj.org/en/cookies/for-cookie-buyers/cookie-connection.html>

Click on Maywood and select a Girl Scout's digital cookie website to make your donation!

Becton Update

The communication found below was shared with Grade 7 & 8 students over the weekend. It is an update regarding the Becton transition. Although grades K-6 have a few years before thinking about high school, we provide you with this communication for informational purposes. Enjoy.

Hello all, I hope this communication finds everyone safe and healthy. This communication is being sent to all 7th and 8th graders and their parents to provide an update on our transition to Becton Regional High School in the fall. The 7th graders and their parents are receiving this because in essence you are a few months away from being 8th graders and the process of acclimating yourself to Becton and all that it entails will be right around the corner.

The Maywood and Becton administration and staff met on Thursday via a virtual meeting. The meeting was extremely productive and we would like to share with you an update and let you know of what to expect in the near future.

Open House/Tours

First and foremost, this closure has impacted our collective ability to schedule an open house tour of Becton. This is something we were all looking forward to as the campus and building are very impressive and we had hoped to have everyone see it for themselves prior to September. Although there may still be that chance in the summer if health officials deem appropriate, we will do the next best thing and provide you with a virtual tour in the meantime. Becton's students and staff created a video found below that was partially shown this past summer at public meetings. It is now the video that welcomes Maywood and educator candidates for added positions. The video provides us a glimpse into the excitement of what Becton has to offer. Continuation of the production of an updated video will proceed as the restrictions ease.

This video is found here

https://twitter.com/Dr_DSforza/status/1253736486639370241?s=20

Student Schedules

Student class schedules are in the process of being finalized and will most likely be made available by mid to late June. We thank everyone for their cooperation in meeting with Ms. Leto virtually during these circumstances. Because of everyone's cooperation and attention to this matter, we have completed the scheduling process so that Becton can use the data to create their master template and corresponding student schedules.

Questions

Dr. Sforza, the Superintendent and Principal of Becton Regional, has asked that any and all questions parents/students may have in regard to Becton and its programs, be directed to him via email at dsforza@bectonhs.org. He will answer questions and/or engage the appropriate staff on your behalf.

Meet & Greet

Dr. Sforza and I will be finalizing a virtual meet and greet for 8th grade parents and students alike. We feel it is important for our parents and our students to get to know the people at Becton that they will be interfacing with this fall and to have a chance to put a name to a face. We also hope to have the students themselves meet current Becton students via a virtual meet and greet so that the transition is that much more smooth. These virtual meets and the corresponding dates/times will be shared with you in the very near future.

Student Council

Nothing compares to the connection between students when it comes to comfort. We are brainstorming ways to include the Becton Student Council and others to engage directly with our current 8th graders in this world of school closure. We will engage the Becton and MAS student councils in conversations that hopefully will result in ideas that we will use to connect current Becton students, current 8th grade students in East Rutherford, Carlstadt and Maywood with each other. More to follow.

Athletics

Fall athletics are right around the corner and pre season planning will begin shortly. Our planning meeting touched upon this as well and we will have information shortly from the various fall coaches. This information will be shared with our current 8th grade students and parents alike so as to begin the process of sign ups and related preparation. One of the items that was discussed yesterday to our delight is that the Becton football team will be opening their fall season with a game at the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio. It was noted in our meeting that every level of football will have the chance to attend the trip, which includes the Maywood incoming freshmen who choose to play football.

School Spirit

Of course nothing is better than school spirit and Becton definitely champions this in all that they do. We are in the process of working with Becton to get some Becton merchandise and SWAG for our current 8th graders so that they are ready to go for September. More details will be provided shortly.

Website/Social Media

We encourage our families to visit the Becton website at <http://www.bectonhs.org/bhs/> as it is a comprehensive housing of a tremendous amount of information and resources. We also suggest that you refer to the various social media offerings that Becton uses including Twitter and Instagram where you can find items such as athletic teams, student council, guidance, school clubs, etc. This site and these social media offerings offer a bird's eye view into our new school for all to see.

Perspective/Family

Lastly, we again extended our deepest condolences to our Becton family on the passing of Javiera Rodriguez. Javiera was a member of the Becton Child Study Team and succumbed to the coronavirus last month. We noted that the MAS Student Council is in the process of brainstorming ideas as to contribute in some way to her lasting memory. As details evolve we will share them with our families.

My consistent mantra throughout this closure has been, "Is this ideal? No, but we will make it work." This applies to every situation we are faced with in our professional and personal lives including our eagerly anticipated transition to the Becton family. Rest assured, all that has been presented above and much more will be worked on for the benefit of the Becton and Maywood family. Please stay tuned for updates.

Stay safe and healthy,
Mr. Jordan, Dr. Sforza & the Maywood & Becton Family