

School Closure Update

April 7, 2020

Good evening, I hope you and your family are healthy and safe.

I hope you are enjoying this odd spring break in creative ways. I provide you with the following update:

Closure Length

First and foremost, unlike certain media reports indicated, the Governor DID NOT close public schools for the rest of the school year. Instead, the Governor specifically stated that all state and county parks are closed and that schools will remain closed “indefinitely.” In essence, as noted in a prior communication, please be prepared for a closure that eclipses the April 30th timeframe previously reported. Today’s press conference solidified that statement and it looks like we will be continuing the remote learning in place beyond April 30th. We hold out hope that we return in some way, shape or form prior to the end of the school year.

Catch Up Days

Upon return from a well-deserved spring break next week we will start to budget into our upcoming weeks the concept of “catch up” days. These days will be school days as normal but the students will be provided with in essence shortened do nows and work that will ask them to be much more independent while you as the teacher catches up with things like grading, plan creation and sanity. Students who are in a hole will have this time to catch up on things that have been missed.

Grading/Assessment

The District has completed and is fine tuning the grading and assessment protocol for the remainder of the school closure. This will be rolled out upon our return from spring break. Our goal was to ensure no student is negatively impacted by the closure and that no District decisions should widen the equity gap. We are confident that our District committee final product runs parallel to that goal.

MAYWOOD SCHOOLS VIRTUAL TALENT SHOW!!

Since our talent shows have been canceled due to the closure, we decided to create a Maywood Schools Virtual Talent Show. Students from both Memorial and MAS who would like to participate, simply take a video of your act from home and email it to Mr. Jordan at mjordan@maywoodschoools.org ! We will then create the full show of submissions to share.

We want singers, dancers, comedians, magicians, performers and much more.

Because of social distancing importance, NO groups other than siblings/parents/family in the same home are allowed.

Please take the time to practice and create your video and then email your video in no later than April 17th. Videos cannot exceed 2 minutes in length

HAVE FUN!!!!

Maywood Sons of the American Legion Art Contest

Please see attached for a fun activity during the closure.

Emotional Well-Being

The longer this goes, the more anxious and concerned we all become. We must remember to take care of our kids and ourselves.

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.