

Monroe County
Middle College



MCISD Continuous Learning Plan

Michigan's Safe Schools Return to School Roadmap



Monroe County
Middle College

2020-2021



Dear Parents/Guardians,

The impact of COVID 19 has been widespread and long lasting. One of the most challenging situations has been the impact on school and education. When MCMC closed on March 13, 2020 due to the executive order we tried to tackle something we had not yet done, instruct and support our students in a fully digital environment. During this time, our teachers worked hard, the administrators worked hard, and we know that our parents and students worked hard too.

To better prepare for any future COVID 19 disruptions we conducted a survey of our parents, students, and staff in June of 2020. The results of the student survey were encouraging but also revealed some areas that we need to further improve. There was a total of 155 student responses. Two thirds (68%) of students reported that the transition to remote learning was easier than expected or about what they expected. Another positive note was that 92% of students found quite easy or somewhat easy to use the remote learning tools during the remote learning timeframe. Our students felt well supported during the remote learning period with 94% of student respondents reporting that teachers were responsive to requests for help, 93% reported that teachers expressed interest in helping students succeed. And 93% reported that expectations were clear.

The survey also revealed some areas where improvement is needed. One third (32%) of students reported that the transition was harder than they expected. We feel we are better equipped to handle a transition to remote learning should this take place again and will be better prepared to relay those expectations to our students. A large area that raised concerns is around the area of mental health which was an area of focus *before* the COVID 19 pandemic. For example, there were negative responses in all areas related to students' social/emotional wellbeing. Students were surveyed in four different areas including Academic Motivation, Engagement, Academic Social Interaction and Emotional Well Being and were asked to rate their feelings before and after COVID 19. It is very clear through these survey results that this has had a negative impact on our students.

MCMC is committed to providing an environment conducive to learning and helping students understand their social and emotional needs and providing tools to help students. Through this process comes a great deal of responsibility on both the school and the students.

Following this letter, you will find the Monroe County Middle College's Remote Learning Plan for Phase Three of the MI Safe Start Plan. Phase three does not allow for in person instruction. The following Remote Learning Plan was created using parent, student and staff feedback, the MI Safe Schools: Michigan's 2020 - 2021 Return to School Roadmap and the Continuity of Learning Plan published by MAISA - GELN, MASSP, Michigan Virtual and MASA. It is our hope that by using the feedback gathered from our stakeholders and the direction of those who put together the plans using best practices related to education and health and safety we can create the most positive experience possible for our students and parents. This plan was submitted to and approved by the Monroe County ISD for us to begin the 2020 - 2021 school year in a remote setting.

It is MCMC's plan to approach this remote learning situation in a very consistent, predictable manner to make this as effective as possible. Students will be expected to be in Schoology regularly, every day of the week. The new learning that will take place will count for credit for classes required for high school graduation. The way learning and assessment happens will look different from traditionally what we are used to. MCMC will approach this new type of learning on a week by week basis. Approaching this on a weekly basis will allow students to better manage their time, plan out work and complete their daily check-in for attendance purposes.

Schoology will continue to be our main source for remote learning. Teachers will be in Schoology very frequently throughout the week and will have dedicated "office hours". Please view each teachers Schoology page for this information. Administrators and teachers will also likely use additional means to help with two-way communication such as Zoom, direct messages in Schoology, email, phone calls and other apps that allow for real time collaboration. It is important that parents and students have access to Schoology. If you have trouble logging into Schoology please email or call Mr. Krueger at robert.krueger@monroeisd.us or 734-342-8751.

As this situation changes it is important that everyone has reliable internet. If you are a student at MCMC and do not have internet at your home, please call Mr. Krueger at 734-625-7407 or email him at robert.krueger@monroeisd.us or DM me in Schoology. We will see what we can do to help.

If you have any questions, please let us know.

Sincerely,
All of us at Monroe County Middle College

Introduction

This document was adapted from the Monroe County ISD's guidance for a Remote Learning Plan that embodies continuous learning as well as numerous other sources. It was adapted to address the unique needs of Monroe County Middle College. This guidance was created to support the teachers and students in meeting the immediate needs of supporting student learning during a mandated school closure.

This guidance document is meant to bring clarity and focus to drive the work of educators, students, and families as we begin the 2020-21 school year. We believe that nothing can replace the value of a highly trained and experienced educator working with our children in the classroom setting, but we must now do what is necessary to mitigate the effect of this public health crisis. Below you will find recommended priorities to support students, families, educators, and communities at large. The enclosed guidance and resource documents from the team will reflect these priorities. The Administrative Team has provided a framework with guidance for educational teams, students, and families to follow as a weekly schedule inclusive of expectations for all staff within each program.

Schoology will remain our main source of communication through this time. It is important that parents and students have reliable internet and access to Schoology. If you have trouble logging into Schoology please **email or call Mr. Krueger at robert.krueger@monroeisd.us or 734-342-8751**. Keep in mind that some teachers will need to use additional web-based software through this process.

We recognize the importance of providing feedback, assessing student progress, and learning; and communicating this to students and parents. Parents must regularly monitor their students' progress in Schoology and Home Access Center. Schoology serves as our Learning Management System (LMS) but HAC is our official gradebook for MCMC.

Please note that the new learning is required for high school graduation. The requirements of the Michigan Merit Curriculum have not changed. Students will be held accountable for the material and work being presented. Students will still receive feedback and grades for the work they complete.

Many of the reports released last few months recommend about 30 minutes per class for high school students. MCMC plans to honor this time frame. This should equal approximately three hours per day for 9th and 10th graders and about an hour to an hour and a half for 11th graders. Additionally, those in college courses should keep on track accordingly with their college professors.

We understand the great importance of helping students remain engaged while in a different setting. We need the help of parents and their classmates to do this. We all thrive on routines and our routines have been changed dramatically in the last few months. To help with some sense of regularity and to maintain a consistent schedule, there will be regularly scheduled face to face interactions with students and their teachers via the Zoom platform. In addition, teachers will have regularly scheduled office hours each week.

The Return to School Roadmap outlines several "Strongly Recommended" and "Recommended" items for Phase 3. The entire Return to School Roadmap can be found here: <https://bit.ly/32r55tf>

The following pages offer suggestions, tips, and ideas for making remote learning as successful as possible. Remember, remote learning can be effective.

Goals for Student/Family Engagement

The MCMC understands that the needs of students, families, and staff differ greatly from one another. It is our goal to support you in whatever way possible to implement a learning plan that meets your unique needs.

- Engage with continuous learning by making learning videos available to your child.
- Share evidence of your child's learning.
- Maintain a relationship with MCMC by engaging in weekly communications.
- Reach out to MCMC teachers, counselor, and administrators to share your needs and ask questions.
- Be flexible and allow yourself grace and patience.

Staff Expectations

- Prepare lesson plans and learning material in electronic format that is easy to follow for families.
- To produce instructional videos that model instructional practices for parents and provide engaging lessons.
- To adhere to timelines for producing materials to support timely distribution of learning materials and videos and materials to families.
- Provide families with the resources they need to meet their students' academic needs
- Provide lesson plans that include options, choices, and variety so that families can participate to the level they are capable.
- Maintain a focus on equal access for all learners.
- Connect families with a list of resources that can help support families and their needs.
- Maintain a focus on building relationships with students and families.
- Collaborate with your grade level teammates to create weekly lessons and supplemental engagement materials.
- Reach out to your team to share your needs and ask questions.
- Develop a system for collecting work from students and families to assess their engagement with lessons.
- Be flexible and allow yourself **grace and patience**.

The following have been a common vision guiding our work:

1. Focus on essential learning standards.
2. Flexibility and cultural responsiveness to the needs of staff, students, and families.
3. Emphasis on relationships as social emotional learning will be a critical component of our work.
4. Decisions supporting equal access for all students.
5. Encouragement of the use of materials, resources and platforms that are already in use by staff, students, and families.
6. Implementation of instructional models that are a blend of printed materials and virtual learning.
7. Establishment of a consistent and agreed upon framework of expectations, communication, and practices.
8. Provision of support and training for all staff and families that occurs prior to implementation of the continuous learning plan.
9. Leading and teaching with grace to all in these unique and trying times.

The Home Learning Environment

The following tips are meant as considerations to support learning at home.

- **IDENTIFY THE LEARNING PLACE**

Find a quiet space for your child to work. Make sure pencils, an eraser, a calculator, and other important tools are at hand, so time isn't wasted trying to find them. Making sure your child has everything he or she needs means less resistance and fewer excuses.

- **CREATE A STUDY PLAN TOGETHER**

Children do well with structure—having a solid study plan in place will help keep your child on track. Dividing study time into manageable chunks is important for keeping your child's mind fresh and engaged.

- **ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILD TO SET SMALL GOALS**

Setting goals gives your child clear directions for what needs to be done, and boosts confidence when he or she accomplishes these goals.

- **ENCOURAGE EXERCISE**

Regular movement improves overall health and reduces stress, making work much easier to accomplish. Consider study breaks that involve exercise (and join in the fun)! Simply searching online for “brain breaks” will supply numerous, fun options!

- **ALLOW TIME FOR MAKING**

Whether you call them [maker spaces](#), hacker-spaces, or DIY (do it yourself) labs, the idea is the same—a place where kids can tinker, invent, and build with everyday things found at home. To get started on your maker space, here are five types of household materials to collect:

- **Art and craft supplies** - Paint, wire, buttons, scissors, paper, old magazines to cut up, and other odds and ends provide endless possibilities for creative projects.
- **Building tools** - Screwdrivers, pliers, and a few other basic construction tools come in handy. Wood scraps and duct tape can be used to support handmade structures.
- **Cardboard** - Boxes, toilet paper and paper towel cylinders, egg cartons, and other cardboard scraps from around the house.
- **Fabric scraps** - felt, mesh, ribbon, yarn, and string are perfect additions to a maker space.

- **LIMIT STRESS**

If your child is stressed, he or she might find it difficult to study, or even find the motivation to get started in the first place. Help your child relieve stress by spending time with him or her and encouraging conversations about thoughts and feelings.

SOURCE: Wayne RESA Parent Portal

The Monroe County Intermediate School District

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