



MALDEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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Dear Malden Families and Educators,

Thank you so much for your support over the past two weeks in dealing with these unprecedented times. Our collective hearts at MPS go out to your families and everyone who is affected by COVID-19. We are also thankful for those who continue to work and serve our students during this time, especially our food service staff and custodians. The COVID-19 virus pandemic has drastically changed our daily lives and we at the Malden Public Schools have been adjusting to the new way of life as well.

During the first two weeks out of school our priority was on getting our food service program up and running for free breakfast and lunch. Meals are available for any Malden student from 10-1 Monday through Friday at the Salemwood School and Malden High School. There is a drive through available to make this as contact free as possible. Our second priority was to get our website filled with the learning activities and resources that parents and students could access during the shut down. We have a very robust enrichment site which includes dozens of resources including virtual field trips. We followed the DESE guidelines to make this material as an enrichment activity with many options by grade levels.

On Wednesday, March 26, Governor Baker announced that schools in Massachusetts will be out of session until at least May 4. On Thursday, Commissioner Riley and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) [recommended a Remote Learning Model](#) for school districts to employ for early April during the extended time out of school. This is a new recommendation which is different from the enrichment activities to engage students for the initial closure of schools. During this week our team will develop what Malden's remote learning will look like so we may have this ready to roll out on April 6. We will do our best to balance the needs of our school community including students, families and staff. Like you, our MPS staff members have real lives, real worries and their own families as well. We will be meeting with the Malden Education Association and collaboratively design a plan which supports students and families to the best of our abilities and resources available.

We will begin a Chromebook distribution on Thursday, April 2 at the Ferryway School for families who do not have any access to a computer. A link on the Malden Public Schools

website (www.maldenps.org) will be available beginning this evening through Wednesday. The form can be accessed by any device, including your cell phone. Due to limited resources we must limit this to one Chromebook per family. We hope this will alleviate some of the worry families may have.

Below is a list which highlights what to expect during this week and the coming remote learning plan:

- The safety and well-being of MPS students is our top priority.
- Expect our staff to continue to reach out and connect with each family and assess the needs of our students.
- We will roll out the Remote Learning Plan on Monday, April 6. We received guidance from DESE on Thursday and Friday and will be using the coming week to develop a plan.
- Remote learning is not online learning. We do not expect students to be in front of a screen all day. In fact, DESE recommends about half of a school day.
- We will use Google Classroom and Google Meet to conduct some remote learning. In fact, as you know, many learning experiences that are happening in families during this time, do not take place online at all.
- While remote learning will look different from a traditional school day, we are looking to build opportunities for teachers to provide feedback to students; we anticipate that assignments during this time will receive a “credit/no credit” designation.

In the coming days, you can expect weekly updates from our office and from your schools. If there is one constant during this crisis it is that this situation changes rapidly. During this time of physical distancing, we want to ensure that the social and emotional connections to our school and community remain strong. Once again, thank you for your support during this time.

Stay safe and healthy,

John Oteri

John Oteri, Superintendent