

# **Marlboro Township Board of Education**



## **Frequently Asked Questions for COVID-19**

- Updated as of Friday, March 20, 2020
- **Additional Content**
  - Staff members are working diligently to post optional work for students. Please expect to see optional work posted on related arts, G&T, etc. teachers' web pages. We are trying to think "outside the box" to post activities, videos, and other work that students can complete without having you order from Amazon or take apart the kitchen sink. In addition, we are engaged in discussions about opening up additional levels of some of the district's online programs ( e.g. "My son finished all of first grade ST Math!") Lastly, Edmentum has graciously offered the use of *Exact Path* for all district students. This is an adaptive program that will adjust to the specific needs of our students. Stay tuned for more details.
- **Deadline for Work Submission**
  - We are recommending that assignments be completed by the following instructional day after being assigned by the teacher. We realize that this is a very difficult time. If you encounter a specific problem, please email your teacher and/or building principal. **We will work with you.**
- **Elderly in Need**
  - If you know of someone that needs help, please email me at [ehibbs@mtps.org](mailto:ehibbs@mtps.org).
- **Entering the Buildings**
  - If for any reason you need something from the building, please email your building principal. We will then work with you. We are constantly in the process of cleaning. So, please don't be offended when we don't let you enter the buildings. We will work tirelessly to help you in these difficult circumstances.

- **Free and Reduced Lunch Information:**
  - We realize that these times are difficult for us all. Please click [HERE](#) for School Lunch Information. If your circumstances have changed, please email your completed form to [vcaravello@mtps.org](mailto:vcaravello@mtps.org).
- **Food Delivery**
  - For the week of March 23-27, we will deliver on Monday - Wednesday - Friday. You will receive two lunches/snacks for Monday-Tuesday on Monday. You will receive two lunches/snacks for Wednesday-Thursday on Wednesday. Friday will have only one lunch/snack. If you need anything, please email Vinnie at [vpalmiero@mtps.org](mailto:vpalmiero@mtps.org).
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  - We realize that these times are difficult for us all. Please click [HERE](#) for School Lunch Information. If your circumstances have changed, please email your completed form to [vcaravello@mtps.org](mailto:vcaravello@mtps.org).
- **Get Them Up and Active**
  - Our students take frequent breaks. Don't get frustrated if they can't sit for hours. Let them stretch, walk, etc. Register at [Go Noodle](#) for some brain breaks. It's free! You can "Baby Shark" away.
- **Gifted and Talented Teachers**
  - G&T teachers will be posting work to their web pages weekly. Assignments for REACH (grades 4 & 5) will be posted on Mondays; assignments for PEP (grades 2 & 3) will be posted on Wednesdays; and assignments for Gifted Literacy (grades K through 3) will be posted on Fridays. All work will be due approximately one week from the posting dates.
- **Google Classroom**
  - If your child is using Google Classroom, please remind them to **hit the "Turn In" button.**

- Please remind students to look for and respond to feedback from staff in Google.
- **Governor Murphy's Executive Order 105**
  - **The following is what Governor Murphy posted on his Facebook page regarding the most recent Executive Order:** I have just signed Executive Order 105: In addition to in-person submission of candidate petitions, the New Jersey Department of State will allow candidate petitions to be submitted electronically. We will create an online petition form to submit signatures for candidate petitions. The March 30 petition deadline remains intact, and this online platform will be shared with county and municipal clerks. The March 21 special election in the fire district of Old Bridge, the March 31 special elections in both Atlantic City and West Amwell Township, and all April 21 school elections will be moved to Tuesday, May 12, the same day as regularly scheduled non-partisan municipal elections. ALL elections on May 12th will be conducted by vote-by-mail ONLY. At this time, there are NO CHANGES being announced for our scheduled June 2nd primary elections. We will not hesitate to act if the emergency requires us to do so. We want to make sure everyone is safe in voting. <https://nj.gov/gover.../news/562020/approved/20200319a.shtml>
- **Governor Murphy's Executive Order 107**
  - On Sunday, March 21, Governor Murphy issued an Executive Order 107 that, in effect, orders most NJ residents to stay home. This order will go into effect at 9PM tonight to accommodate the end of the Sabbath. It will stay in effect until the Governor revokes or modifies it. Please note that grocery stores, restaurants, and many other essential businesses will remain open. We have detailed the guidelines below. "Stay at home" order: All residents are to stay at home or at their place of residence unless they are leaving for the following reasons:
    - Obtaining goods or services from essential retail businesses;

- Obtaining takeout or food beverages from restaurants;
- Seeking medical attention, essential social services, or assistance from law enforcement;
- Visiting family or close friends, caretakers, or romantic partners;
- Reporting to or performing their job;
- Walking, running, or engaging in outdoor activities with immediate family, caretakers, household members, or romantic partners;
- Leaving for an educational, religious, or political reason;
- Leaving because of a reasonable fear for health or safety; or
- Leaving at the direction of law enforcement or other government agency.
- Individuals who have to travel must practice social distancing when possible and should use public transportation only if they have no other feasible choice.
- Cancelling gatherings: Gatherings of individuals, such as parties, celebrations, or other social events, are cancelled, unless otherwise authorized by the Order (i.e. the activities mentioned above). A separate Administrative Order will be issued to make clear that gatherings of fewer than 10 people are presumed to comply with the Order, unless clear evidence indicates otherwise.
- Closing non-essential retail businesses: All non-essential retail businesses, which were previously limited to between 5 am and 8 pm, must now close entirely (online delivery can continue). The list of essential retail businesses that can stay open is limited to the following:
  - Grocery and food stores, including retailers like Walmart/Target that sell food;
  - Pharmacies and medical marijuana dispensaries;
  - Medical supply stores;

- Gas stations;
  - Convenience stores;
  - Ancillary stores within healthcare facilities;
  - Hardware and home improvement stores;
  - Banks and other financial institutions;
  - Laundromats/dry-cleaning services;
  - Stores that principally sell supplies for children under five years old;
  - Pet stores;
  - Liquor stores;
  - Car dealerships, but only for auto maintenance and repair, and auto mechanics;
  - Printing and office supply shops;
  - Mail and delivery stores.
  - Note that supermarkets are asking that you buy only what you need -- the supply chain will catch up if customers purchase and stores restock in the normal course.
- Mandatory telework/work-from-home: All businesses or non-profits in the State must accommodate their workforce, wherever practicable, for telework or work-from-home arrangements. If a business or non-profit has employees that must be on site, it shall reduce staff on site to the minimal number necessary to ensure critical operations can continue. Examples of employees who need to be present at their work site include: law enforcement officers, fire fighters, and other first responders, cashiers or store clerks, construction workers, utility workers, repair workers, warehouse workers, lab researchers, information technology maintenance workers, janitorial and custodial staff, and certain administrative staff.

- Recreational and entertainment businesses: All are closed. This is unchanged from what is currently in place but the order reiterates these prohibitions.
- Restaurants and other dining establishments: All can remain open, but must continue to be delivery and/or takeout only. This is also unchanged.
- Pre-K, K-12, and higher education: All continue to be closed to students. This is unchanged as well.
- Nothing in the order shall be construed to affect the operations of (1) health care or medical service providers; (2) access to essential services for low-income residents, including but not limited to food banks; (3) the media; (4) law enforcement; and (5) the operations of the federal government or the movement of federal officials when operating in their official capacity.
- The Governor also signed Executive Order No. 108 stating that that no county or municipality may adopt or enforce any such restriction going forward and that includes additions to or deletions to the list of retail businesses deemed essential.
- Business owners who are able to continue to pay their employees are encouraged to do so. Please visit [COVID-19 for Business Owners](#) for information and assistance. Employees who have been financially affected should review Department of Labor regulations and visit [www.NJ.gov/labor](http://www.NJ.gov/labor).

- **How Do I Acquire A Chromebook**

- If you do not have a chromebook for your child or if the chromebook you have is not working, please contact your building principal. We will then work to ensure you receive one.

- **How and When Will You Get Eric's Updates?**

- Please expect a daily update directly from me. I will typically send the update toward the end of the day/evening after we can regroup and speak virtually. When I have information, I will inform the community accordingly and accurately. In addition, I would like to ask a favor during these difficult times, if you have any issues, please contact your child's teacher first and then the building principal. We will work to solve any and all problems. If you are not receiving my emails or text messages, please email Theresa Russo @[trusso@marlboro.k12.nj.us](mailto:trusso@marlboro.k12.nj.us).

I am inserting the building leadership emails below:

- Marlboro Middle School - [pnieliwocki@mtps.org](mailto:pnieliwocki@mtps.org)
- Marlboro Memorial Middle School - [jpacifico@mtps.org](mailto:jpacifico@mtps.org)
- Asher Holmes - [jcilmi@mtps.org](mailto:jcilmi@mtps.org)
- Defino Central - [dstratuik@mtps.org](mailto:dstratuik@mtps.org)
- Dugan - [rpagliari@mtps.org](mailto:rpagliari@mtps.org)
- Marlboro Elementary - [mshatz@mtps.org](mailto:mshatz@mtps.org)
- Robertsville - [jgreen@mtps.org](mailto:jgreen@mtps.org)
- AELC - [aperno@mtps.org](mailto:aperno@mtps.org)
- Curriculum - [mballone@mtps.org](mailto:mballone@mtps.org)
- Business Office - [vcaravello@mtps.org](mailto:vcaravello@mtps.org)
- Food Services - [vpalmiero@mtps.org](mailto:vpalmiero@mtps.org)

- **Intervention and Referral Services**

- If any child was slated for an I&RS meeting with staff, we are postponing these meetings until after we return.

- **Length of School Closing**

- As of right now, we are following the directive of Governor Murphy. Schools in NJ are not currently closed for the remainder of the year. We will monitor and update you when we are informed.

- **Online Programs**

- Please let your child know that our teachers can see how much time they spend on an online program.

- **Optimum Pledge:**

- Federal Communications Commission Chairman Ajit Pai recently issued a release referencing the Keep Americans Connected Pledge. Highlights are summarized below. Major telecommunications providers are have agreed to the following for a period of at least 60 days:
  - They will not terminate service to any residential or small business customers due to an inability to pay.
  - They will waive late fees that any residential or small business customers incur because of their economic circumstances related to the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - They will open their Wi-Fi hotspots to any American who needs them.
- Altice USA is committed to helping schools and students stay connected during this unprecedented time. For households with K-12 and/or college students who may be displaced due to school closures and who do not currently have home internet access, we are offering our Altice Advantage 30 Mbps broadband solution for free for 60 days to any new customer household within our footprint. Starting Monday, March 16, 2020, eligible households interested in this solution can call: 866-200-9522 to enroll in Optimum region.

- **Printing**
  - We are working with our staff to ensure your children are not required to print. We realize this requires paper and ink. You can print anything you want on your own, but we will not be requiring printing.
- **Printing from a Chromebook**
  - If you want to print from home from one of our chromebooks, you can do so by using a USB cable. Connect the chromebook to your printer using this cable. When printing, hit the dropdown (select more) and your printer should appear. You may have to try it a couple of times.
- **Reading and Math Coaches**
  - Our reading and math coaches will be contacting you to set up sessions for Tier 3 RTI students. Please look for these communications. For more information on RTI, please click [HERE](#).
- **Remote Buildings**
  - Staff will be working remotely as of Thursday, March 19th. Phone extensions have been routed to staff emails for all essential staff. So, if you need to call the building, and you leave a message with the main office, this message will be routed to the appropriate staff member. Staff members will return your call when they receive the message. Please know, you may still email us with any concerns. Again, my email is [ehibbs@mtps.org](mailto:ehibbs@mtps.org) if you need me anytime day or night.
- **State Testing**
  - Just today, President Trump has announced that the Department of Education will not enforce federal standardized testing requirements for students in elementary through high school for the current year. New Jersey has not disseminated guidance on state testing as of now. Stay tuned.tP

- **Student Loans**

- President Trump has also discussed with his administration the concept of student loans. He has apparently temporarily waived all interest on federally held student loans and he says he's directed Education Secretary Besty DeVos to tell federal lenders to allow borrowers to suspend their student loans and loan payments, without penalty for at least the next 60 days. So you may want to look into this if you have loans (or have your older children look into).

- **Technology Hotline Support**

- If you have a problem with technology, please email us at [technicalsupport@marlboro.k12.nj.us](mailto:technicalsupport@marlboro.k12.nj.us). All of our technology staff will be checking this address, and we will do our best to answer your questions. Please know that some questions may be out of our control, but we will do our very best to serve you. Our staff will be checking for issues between the hours of 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Monday through Friday. Please also contact our support if you are an Apple/Mac user and need help with logging into Google Classroom.

- **Virtual Learning Update**

- Right now, our staff have the option of using virtual learning options. As a district, we have a team working non-stop to further develop this plan so that we are unified as a district. This will include easy to learn professional development for staff and parents/guardians.

- **Weekend School**

- We will not hold school on weekends. Your weekends are your weekends. And as of now, I'm sure you need them.

- **What is the Look of Next Week?**

- For next week (the 23rd - 27th), we will be operating the exact same way we operated this week.

- **Work in General**

- If you are having a hard time accessing our work, please email your child's teacher or building principal. Staff will begin to contact you as of Friday if they see that work is not being completed.

