Hi Mustang Family,

Welcome to Week 6. We hope you are all doing well, and feeling well. We are pleased to see our community beginning to open up again. Polliwog reopened yesterday to limited use. Reports indicate that those who visited the park, did so responsibly. Building this type of social-trust will ensure our ability to continue opening up our community with caution and care. The cliché applies: we’re in this together. Stay strong and remain healthy, and this too shall pass. Let’s start this week with some fun things that are happening:

Teachers continue to submit new playlists, and this week is no different. Check out our new ones from Ms. Hutchinson, Ms. Nielsen, and Ms. Wachell. Be sure to take some time, have a listen, and smile a little by clicking HERE. There’s also a surprise for y’all who love Country Music, or the rest who need to learn a little something.

Click HERE to enjoy our talented musicians in Mira Costa Bands. It will pick your spirits up!

Many things are different, but one thing remains the same: we have incredible student athletes and this year is no different. Click HERE to see all of our Spring Sport NCAA signed athletes. We are so very sorry we couldn’t see you dominate this year on the court, field, deck, sand, and track surface. We honor your strength.

You’ll quickly see that I have no future as a tv host, and that’s sad for all of us, but it is fun nonetheless to walk through the new gym construction, and see the progress being made. Click HERE for the latest virtual tour. Many many thanks again to our Mayor Richard Montgomery and the City Council for their continued support.

Scholar Breakfast Ceremony will be Tuesday April 28 at 9:00 am. Click HERE to join us in honoring these teacher-nominated students who have distinguished themselves in this remote school, distance learning setting. I will be calling their names by video, and our ASB Student Government students will send their award.

Those of you interested in auditioning for Senior Speeches at Graduation and possibly Senior Recognition, please send a copy of your script to Ms. Howerton at qhowerton@mbusd.org by May 1, 2020. Click HERE for details on how to properly submit an audition video.

Registration is now open for the 2020-2021 student parking pass lottery. Interested students click HERE for more information and to register online at the MCHS ABS Web Store before May 16th.

Click HERE to see the latest update for NCAA eligibility guidelines for athletes. We watch these closely as we consider the grades question for this year, and the effect on subsequent years. The NCAA officials continue to make updates, so this is a good resource for student-athletes.

Monday attendance for ALL students for ALL classes will now be done by clicking HERE. Once your student has done this, they are considered “present” for the day.
Click [HERE](#) for Dr. Matthews’ updates as we continue to work through the COVID19 remote school environment.

Need something from campus still? Click [HERE](#) to request the item, and receive more information.

**Schedule** - For the remainder of the remote school year, our weekly schedule will be as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MCHS Block Schedule</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Period 8:00 - 10:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition 10:00 - 10:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Period 10:15 - 12:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lunch 12:15 - 12:45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Period 12:45 - 2:45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mondays will feature protected time for helping students and teachers meet the demands of distance learning. To this end, there will be allocated time for professional development (i.e.: opportunities for teachers to meet, train, collaborate, and prepare) and allocated time for students to conference with teachers. Each teacher will decide the best time and the most effective method for teacher/student conferencing and will share this information with their students before next Monday.

Please honor each teacher's schedule and method as they may be juggling many other responsibilities at home. Please also keep in mind that any given teacher's window of time to conference may overlap with other teachers. Students could find themselves in situations where they may have to choose which teacher to conference with that week. Rest assured that these conferences are an optional means of communicating with teachers and are not mandatory.

Non-Rolling Block Schedule. From this point forth, the block schedule will be the same for the rest of the school year without alternating the order of periods each week. Thus, every Tuesday and Thursday will always be 1, 3, 5 and every Wednesday and Friday will always be 2, 4, 6. We hope this will add an extra layer of consistency and stability for our students and teachers.

Here's what's staying the same:

Block Schedule for Videoconferencing. The block schedule was created for managing live instruction, discussion, checking for understanding, and other live class activities during distance learning. Without this schedule in place, students would be forced to pick between teachers, missing out on precious instructional time. The block schedule is simply to bring order to live instruction.

Teacher Flexibility. There has been lingering confusion over whether or not students should be checking in and doing work for classes when it is not their class's "block schedule" day. The answer is: it is completely up to the teacher. Teachers are creating tailored schedules with their students' best interests in mind, and their unique curriculum in mind. Just like when school was in session, there is instructional time, and there is independent practice and homework time. As always, it is up to teachers to determine what that will look like for their classes. The only boundary teachers are not allowed to cross is holding Zoom sessions or conducting any other live class activity when it is not their scheduled period according to the block schedule. Other than that, teachers determine what "homework" looks like and when assignments are due.
AP Testing - AP testing begins May 11 through May 22. Click [HERE](#) to see a complete schedule, and details regarding test administration. During those two weeks, teachers will organize their workload with the understanding that AP students will be taking tests at various times. We have provided every teacher a list of students – outlining the roster of test-takers with the test and day/time. Teachers will plan their two weeks of instruction around when students take exams to avoid conflicts. Should a conflict arise, we ask students to politely email their teacher and remind them that they are in fact taking an AP exam at the date/time of the conflict. The teacher will respond with an alternative method of accessing the learning, or an alternative turn in time – depending on the specific situation. Our goal is to maintain our current academic schedule, while supporting our test-takers.

May the 4th Be With YOU is a great day for our ASB student government elections! Run for office or vote on May 4, 2020 by clicking [HERE](#). Candidates go there now!

Interested in helping teachers as a Zoom moderator? Learn this valuable skill by clicking [HERE](#).

Caps and Gowns - Distribution will take place May 30, 2020 beginning at 9:00. We will distribute by alpha, and we will publish the times as the date draws closer. We will use the turn-through drop-off in the upper Peck staff lot. This is all leading to “normal” graduation. More to come.

Textbooks - We have made a first run at a return plan focusing on Seniors and books left in lockers. We are looking at yearbooks and caps and gowns as a model for how we can do this. More to come.

Yearbooks - The books arrive around the end of May, so we still have time on this one. We have the same concerns as the other items above; handing them out to students in the safest way possible. Stay tuned.

Senior Recognition Night/All Awards Assembly - We are planning something special for this. I don’t want to over-hype it, but if we can pull it off, it will be AMAZING. Stay tuned.

Stay healthy,
Ben Dale, Ed.D.