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March 18, 2020

Dear Warrior Tribe:

As you can probably imagine, the members of our teams across all departments are taking on major changes to every layer of student service at unprecedented speed. The number of students participating in our school breakfast and lunch programs continue to grow. For changes to your meal plan or inquiries and updates about our lunch program, please click [here](#) or visit: www.m-ecs.org and click "Meal Order Information." Most importantly, we ask that changes to the meal delivery locations be received by the district no later than 3:00 PM the day before.

Our cafeteria staff has done a great job keeping up with the demand. Our bus drivers have taken on the new role of breakfast and lunch deliverers. They have accepted this new responsibility in stride and have been beyond accommodating to so many unique requests that we have received. Thank you to these men and women of MECS.

One of the new services we are looking to deliver to our community is some form of child care. Governor Cuomo asked all school districts in the state to look into the ability to deliver this type of service. There has been little clarification on the nature of the care we are being asked to help support. In order to collect the necessary data and have our information ready when we know the expectations, and so we can implement something as soon as possible, we have prepared a survey available online. You can access that survey [here](#): or visit www.m-ecs.org and click the link titled "Child Care Needs Survey." It should take less than five minutes to complete. We will only consider the results of surveys that are fully completed. If you have trouble accessing the survey, please call Mrs. McCann at 315-684-9158.

Today, a flurry of virtual meetings continued. The administrative team has been growing its skills with the use of Microsoft Teams. This allows face-to-face virtual interaction from afar with individuals, as well as groups. Principals used Teams to host meetings with key instructional personnel. We are testing the capacity and features of this software tool among others. We see a *possible* widespread use of tools like this throughout the district in the future.

One of the interesting tools in Teams is that participants can share their screen with others and demonstrate skills, knowledge, or understanding. It appears that those without broadband internet can even access the audio of the team meeting if they have access to a phone. We are working through the possibilities every day and looking at ways to provide access to ALL students.

Our [Thought Exchange](#) continues to provide great information to the administration. I encourage members of our community to access this exchange soon to provide thoughts and rate others. This particular exchange will close at noon tomorrow and a new one, with a different purpose, will be

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started. Recently, this tool brought to the forefront how important it is to the community for us to provide technology access to students who don't have sufficient computing or internet power. The district shares that concern. We will be using the data collected from the survey activated last Friday to help identify who should be prioritized for this support with the resources we have.

As these days pass, realize that we are one day closer to the peak of the virus and the slow return to normalcy. Make the most out of the isolation you may be experiencing. At the start of this, I was touched by a community member's Facebook post which read: "I can't think of anybody I would rather quarantine in place with than you, [wife's name]." I believe this is the attitude to have. Take this unique opportunity that may feel like a quarantine to reconnect with your family and loved ones. Go for a walk, enjoy a state park, play some board games, read some books, tell some jokes. Then tomorrow do it again.

I miss our students and staff... Go Warriors!

Sincerely,



Gregory Molloy

