

March 19, 2020

Dear Warrior Tribe:

We are one more day into the “new normal” and one day closer to what our post-new normal will be. The Coronavirus has made its mark on the world, and the education system continues to rapidly adapt as a result. Everyone in our society is being struck in some way by the health and economic setbacks produced. We are here to support our entire community, but especially those who have been impacted by layoffs, food shortages, and businesses that have been forced to close. Our Leo’s Club has food and other supports available if needed. Please reach out to Mrs. Palmer at [mpalmer@m-ecs.org](mailto:mpalmer@m-ecs.org) to access these resources. This is strong evidence of the compassionate team of teachers who are working excessively to support our students in every way possible.

While we work to deliver meals and instruction during this “new normal” we are trying to process what our future holds. There are far too many unknowns to predict what education will look like this spring, or into next year. We will continue to adjust plans as we enhance our computer systems, add to our software options, and receive new technology shipments. In addition, we modify our course as our government defines district expectations and responsibilities.

Each day, I check in with my administrative team, and in turn, they are connecting with teachers throughout the district. By now, it is expected that students are being connected with at a personal level by their teachers. As you can imagine, this new instructional concept can be a challenge to implement. We will be relying on students doing their part to stay in contact with their teachers. If a child is not meeting an expectation, please be prepared for a phone call or virtual meeting request from your child’s teacher and/or principal.

At the same time, this new learning concept can create great pressure on parents. If parents need relief from expectations or guidance/direction from teachers, please contact them. To help identify how the District can improve in the remote delivery of instruction, a *new* Thought Exchange has been posted. You can access it by clicking here: [ThoughtExchange](#)

In our last Thought Exchange, a concern was identified about how children will access next week’s work. In response to this, it is important to realize how fast this new model of learning is changing. At the start of remote learning, there was a vision that work could be physically exchanged between student and teacher *or* teachers could develop a virtual learning environment. To protect the health of our team, it was decided that the exchange of physical materials should not occur. Therefore, instructional materials will now only be delivered through technology. For those that have no access to appropriate technology, individualized plans will be developed in coordination with teachers.

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Aligned to this thought, a shipment of laptop computers is expected eventually. This is the result of a long-awaited bond authorization from NYS. The purchase was authorized at the beginning of March, almost three years after our request was submitted. We will have enough computers for all students when this delivery arrives, but it will take a lot of effort to deploy them. In the meantime, our IT coordinator, Mr. Willis, is working on a logistical plan to distribute the iPads in our possession and securing hotspots for families where internet is not accessible.

For families that don't have internet, you may wish to contact Spectrum, Frontier, or any other provider in your area to see what options might be available. It has been reported that services from some providers are being offered for free to those without service. I recommend you ask for the details on any such offer. A new survey is being developed where we can capture the precise needs of every student in our district, at a deeper level than what we collected last week.

A second thought was shared that some children don't have books to read. A commenter responded noting that there is a little free library by a big tree on the corner of Brooklyn and Eaton Street in Eaton with free books for children of all ages. The owner noted that she will fill it when it empties. What a great community we have!!

Our guidance on childcare continues to be limited. If you are in need of childcare during this school shutdown period, and you haven't done so already, please complete this survey: [click here](#) or visit [www.m-ecs.org](http://www.m-ecs.org) and click the link titled "Child Care Needs Survey." If you have trouble accessing the survey, please call Mrs. McCann at 315-684-9158.

Our schools have continued to scale back on the number of employees reporting to work. We can still help families via telephone with our standard phone numbers. Clerical staff have all calls being forwarded to cell phones or voice mailboxes. Please leave messages if you call, we will return them as promptly as possible.

Continue to stay strong during this crazy era. When I was in school, we had "anno Domini," AD and "Before Christ," BC to denote periods in time. My son explained to me last evening the new terms of "Common Era," CE and "Before Common Era," BCE as he was working on his social studies. I believe all of us, when this is all over, will define this point in time similarly. We will have the era Before COVID-19 and After COVID-19. We just need to get through COVID-19.

I continue to miss you all... Go Warriors!

Sincerely,



Gregory Molloy