

Emergency Learning Plans

Emergency Flexible Learning Days - Asynchronous

In the event we are unable to have school we will implement a Flexible Learning Day. Because of our digital learning platform, Google Classroom, and the fact that over 95% of our students have Internet access in their home, the learning does not need to stop.

School closures will be announced on the four major news networks. Our transportation is provided by South Washington County Schools so if they decide to close for the day we will also close.

If school is cancelled, all teachers will post work by 10 a.m. for the students they would have seen that day. They have been asked to use Google Classroom if at all possible so that students and families have one place to look. Google Classroom provides a platform for posting materials students will need, for interaction, or for brief videos of content teachers would like delivered. In preparation for Emergency Flexible Learning Days, teachers have been asked to:

- Anticipate time requirements recognizing students learn at different paces, especially in an independent context.
- Provide a timely plan, posting work for the day by 10 a.m.
- Be present in Google Classroom and email during the Flexible Learning Day.
- Plan for self-directed, independent learning with specific consideration to age and individual learning needs.
- Customize learning opportunities especially in troubleshooting student challenges.

Teachers will be working with students to make sure they all know how to access materials in the event of an emergency shift to distance learning.

Mitigation Factors in Place

At MSA we are committed to remaining open and fully in person if at all possible. In order to reduce the spread of COVID, MSA has adopted several mitigation strategies. A school wide mask mandate which remains in place and has helped prevent the spread of COVID at school. We are increasing distance in the cafeteria between students and will be adding additional lunch times to further spread out students while they eat. We will distance as much as possible in our classrooms. COVID testing began at MSA on November 30 (see more information below). In addition, please consider having your child vaccinated.

Weekly COVID testing

COVID testing began at MSA on Nov 30. If you are interested in having your student tested, please contact Becky Bogan (bbogan@mnmsa.org) to get set-up for testing. Specify your preference to sign-up with paper forms or to receive an online link with electronic forms. Students will test on Tuesday mornings from 9:15-10:20 (period 1) in the Great Hall.

We will also be offering a drive up testing option to students that may need a test when they are sick. Drive up testing will be available on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30-10:30. In order for this to occur, you must notify Becky Bogan at bbogan@mnmsa.org to set up a time and you must have all forms filled out before testing can occur.

Distance Learning - Synchronous

Our goal at MSA is to stay full in person for the remainder of the year. However, there are several issues that could impact our ability to stay fully open. MSA will need to move to distance learning if any of the following happen:

- South Washington County Schools move to full distance learning.
- More than 10% of our students or staff test positive in a 7 day period.
- Staff shortages such that we are not able to operate.

Distance learning is offered synchronously through classes over Zoom. In the event that we need to shift to Distance Learning, we would first spend a couple of days in emergency flexible learning days as described above to give the teachers time to prepare, and families time to adjust. At that point we would likely go to a block schedule, Monday-Thursday like our current Thursday/Friday schedule, with Friday as a time that students and staff connect individually, for extra help, as needed. Last year this was called What I Need (WIN) Fridays. We would communicate students' schedules and Zoom links via daily updates.