

Good Evening!

It has been a very busy and active week! Over the past week, all MSA staff and many BOD members and parents have met via video conferencing to create the Distance Learning Plan for MSA. While there have been daily changes from the Minnesota Department of Education illustrating how fluid this process is, we have a plan which is in the editing stage. Before an executive summary is released on Sunday for viewing, there are a number of items you should be aware of.

Quote of the Day:

“Successful people are always looking for opportunities to help others.” – Brian Tracy

Tips/suggestions for Preparing to Learn at Home:

- 1) If you cannot access Skyward, please contact Justin Gehring (justin@jcorps.com or 651-578-7507 extension 3504).
- 2) Two trainings to visit before Monday include:
 - a. Zoom - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aXP1YSSYBkg&feature=youtu.be>
 - b. Google Classroom - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=knZ1igmBqO4>
- 3) General information is provided via the Distance Learning Website (<http://www.mnmsa.org/dl/>). Additional information and training will also be provided by teachers when appropriate for their classes.
- 4) If you have not already done so, start becoming familiar with:
 - accessing your MSA email and the MSA web portal.
 - accessing the webpages your student’s teachers provide.
 - how to launch into a Zoom meeting (see link above).
 - how to get and post assignments through Google classroom (see link above).

Plan Updates:

Daily schedule - Please check Skyward for your daily schedule. Please note that on Friday, teachers will have 2 hours of office hours. A list of teachers’ office hours will be available on Sunday.

Instructional time - No more than 20 minutes per class with no more than 60 minutes to complete the tasks and homework.

Attendance - Advisory teachers will take daily attendance. Students need to check in with their advisor by 1:00 pm each day, Monday through Friday.

Student belongings at MSA - Please call the main MSA phone line (651-578-7507) if you need to pick up materials. Entrance into the school building is by appointment only.

Student Behavior During Distance Learning - Behavior and clothing expectations while conducting online learning and/or communicating with staff are still in effect.

We will continue our Dragon Fire during distance learning.

Focus

- Stay on task when using technology.
- Minimize distractions in your workspace.

Integrity

- Turn in your own work.
- Use only resources allowed for assessments.
- Always cite sources.

Respect

- Take turns commenting during group video chats.
- Make respectful comments and facial expressions when online.

Excellence

- Complete and turn in assignments on time.
- Always persevere and try your best.
- Help others who may need assistance.

Activities at MSA

- All participation in MSHSL spring activities at all member schools is suspended.

No decisions regarding the cancellation of spring activities have been made at this time.

• Participation includes, but is not limited to, competitions, training, practices, scrimmages, and contests. The suspension of participation includes fine arts activities and athletics and the following events remain suspended indefinitely:

- Speech Section and State Tournaments
- Music Contests
- Visual Arts Competitions and State Festival
- MSHSL State Robotics Tournament
- MSHSL Clay Target State Tournament

AP/ACT/MCA Testing

- MCAs at MSA will not occur this year.
- ACT exams will not occur at MSA this year. Please continue to monitor this page and your email for additional updates as they may arise. For more information regarding national ACT test dates, please [click here](#).
- Traditional face-to-face AP exam administrations will not take place.
- For each AP subject, there will be 2 different testing dates.
- The full exam schedule, specific free-response question types that will be on each AP Exam, and additional testing details will be available by April 3rd.
- For the 2019–20 exam administration only, students can take a 45-minute online exam at home.
- To be fair to all students, some of whom have lost more instructional time than others, the exam will only include topics and skills most AP teachers and students have already covered in class by early March.

- Students will be able to take these streamlined exams on any device they have access to—computer, tablet, or smartphone. Taking a photo of handwritten work will also be an option.
- Please continue to monitor the [Testing Information and Updates](#) page on our website and your email for additional updates as they arise.

IEP/504 Plans

- Paraprofessionals will host live/synchronous classroom sessions for students with IEPs using this [schedule](#).
- Students will receive special education IEP service minutes.
- Individualized Google Classrooms for each student on an IEP have been created. Each student's teachers, EAs and related service providers who will be working with them are in this group.

Featured Resource: (School information)

[MSA Distance Learning/ COVID-19 Information](#)

Has information on the latest updates, preparing for distance learning, FAQs, school counseling support, testing information and updates, and COVID-19 health resources.

<https://www.mnmsa.org/dl>

Have a great weekend and we'll see you Monday, albeit virtually!