



# MONTCLAIR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS WHILE SCHOOLS ARE IN REMOTE LEARNING DUE TO COVID-19

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### Overview

Montclair Public Schools' goal during this time is to provide connectedness and continuity of instruction. Our first priority is to ensure remote online learning is accessible, practical, and developmentally appropriate for students at each grade level. Our teachers are focused on and committed to providing students with quality learning experiences while at home. Teachers and students will utilize Google Classroom, as well as other district-approved online platforms, to deliver class resources, activities, and assignments.

### Frequently Asked Questions on General Topics

**Q1: How can I access the district COVID updates and resources, including wellness supports?**

A: Check the [COVID-19 Updates, Wellness, Support](#) link found on the MPS District [homepage](#).

**Q2: How do I register my child for Montclair Public Schools?**

A: Check the district webpage linked here for Student [Registration](#) information.

**Q3: Who do I contact with health related questions?**

A: Contact your healthcare provider or call 911 with specific COVID questions or 911 for emergencies. Email your school nurse regarding any non-COVID related health questions or general concerns.

**Q4: How do I submit updated medical information for my child for the 2020-2021 school year?**

A: Submit updated action plans for medical conditions for 20-21 to your school nurse.

**Q5: How will instruction be delivered during the extended school closure?**

A: Remote online learning does not necessarily mean students will be in front of a screen for the duration of the school day. The instructional day may include both online and offline assignments, and teachers will communicate assignments and learning activities regularly to students via Google Classroom. Our design does not require students to attend “live” classes online at specific time periods, although teachers may elect to conduct instruction in this manner. K-5 teachers, however, are expected to offer two to three non-instructional live sessions for students to check in, socialize with classmates, receive small group support and see their teachers. We recognize it is important during the extended closure that students are given the flexibility to complete learning experiences in a considerate yet timely manner.

**Q6: How will my child's attendance be taken?**

A: Attendance for classes will be taken via a Google Classroom daily attendance question. The “Daily Question” is a Google Form question for the day such as “Click here to be marked *Present*.” Completion of assignments may also be used to verify student attendance.

Parents must contact their child's school absence line to report an absence from a virtual school day if their child is sick or otherwise unable to complete the day's work. Nurses will be providing wellness-checks on students with chronic problems or multiple absences.

**Q7: Will my child continue to receive Special Education services?**

A: Yes. All services for students with disabilities will continue to be provided as per their IEP/504. The Child Study Team (CST) will continue to hold scheduled IEP meetings virtually. Classroom support staff will continue to support students via Google Classroom or other online tools and platforms. Students will receive related services, including OT/PT, Speech and Counseling virtually, utilizing Google Meet a minimum of one session per week. Other required sessions may be rendered as per their IEP in a group or individually utilizing video resources, activity worksheets or lessons as recommended by their therapist.

**Q8: Will Guidance Counselors be available?**

A: Yes. Our guidance teams: Psychologists, Social Workers, Guidance Counselors, Student Assistance Counselors, Academy Counselors and other student support staff will be available via @montclair.k12.nj.us email and will remain available throughout the duration of remote online learning.

**Q9: Will students who qualify for free/reduced lunch continue to receive meals?**

A: Yes. The Montclair Public Schools and Toni's Kitchen have formed a partnership to ensure that all our families have access to healthy food during this period of disruption. Please be advised that effective May 4, 2020 all families who have been impacted by COVID-19 but do not receive free/reduced meals will be able to pick up breakfast/lunch at Toni's Kitchen 73 S. Fullerton Avenue on Mondays and Thursdays from 9 am until 5 pm. Groceries are available through Toni's Kitchen from 9am to 5pm, Monday through Friday; 9am-1pm on Saturday or 3pm-6pm on Sunday. For further information, please reach out directly to Toni's Kitchen via email at [toniskitchen@gmail.org](mailto:toniskitchen@gmail.org).

**Q10: Will virtual days count towards the 180-day requirement?**

A: Yes. The NJDOE has approved remote learning days to count towards the 180 day requirement for school attendance. In addition, the district is responsible for maintaining student attendance for reporting purposes.

**Q11: What will happen with extracurricular activities?**

A: The district has suspended all after school and extracurricular activities (including sports, field trips, concerts, plays, etc.) until further notice. UPDATED NJSIAA STATEMENT - 4/16/2020

“The return-to-school date and related public health guidelines will continue to determine the viability of a spring sports season. As noted, NJSIAA is committed to doing whatever is possible to provide New Jersey’s student-athletes with some type of spring season. We have models in place that allow for competition starting as late as May 25, but given the late start date, tournament play may not be viable. Our commitment to conclude the spring season, no later than June 30 stands. As the governor noted, we remain hopeful.”

For the latest update on school athletics in NJ, please click [here](#).

## **Plan for Remote Online Teaching and Learning**

**Q12: What will a virtual school day look like for my student?**

A: Students are expected to log in daily to their Google Classroom(s). Teachers will be monitoring online activity and will be available for help each virtual school day. Below is a more detailed explanation of a virtual learning day according to grade level.

**K-12:** Students should log in to their Google Classroom via Clever each morning or after to check their daily learning activities, which will be both online and off-line. Teachers will be available via their Google Classroom chat feature and @montclair.k12.nj.us email each virtual school day to answer any questions and provide guidance while students are working on their assignments.

**MHS:** See [PHASE II Student Informational Quick Guide Distance Learning](#) from Principal Grosso.

**Q13: How will student work be assessed?**

A: We are committed to the belief that remote learning should not be detrimental to a student's success. Teachers will assess student participation, engagement, and completion of assignments.

For K-5:

Teachers will use the available assessment information and their records of student completion and submission of work to develop the report cards for Cycle 3. For the Third Trimester, Elementary schools will be adapting our K-5 assessment and reporting practices during remote learning. The new reporting method will be as follows:

- **E**-Exceeds Expectations in Effort and Completion of Work
- **M**-Meets Expectations in Effort and Completion of Work
- **B**-Below Expectations in Effort and Completion of Work
- **N/A**- Not Applicable for Current Marking Period

Please read the following letter for parents/guardians of elementary students: [Elementary Assessment & Reporting During Remote Learning Due to COVID-19 \(For Parents/Guardians\)](#)

For 6-12: For the fourth marking period teachers will continue to post grades in Genesis. Teachers will communicate the timeframe for students to make up any missing work. By mid-May, missing work from marking period four will receive a minimum grade of 55%. Report card grades will be reported using letter grades.

**Q14: If my child needs help with an assignment or learning activity, how do they get in contact with their teacher?**

A: Students will be able to ask their teacher questions through their teacher's Google Classroom page. Have your child check their Google Classroom each remote online school day. If you need to email your child's teacher, please use the teacher's @montclair.k12.nj.us email address (visit your school website for the staff directory if you do not know the teacher's email address).

**Q15: What assessments will be administered?**

A: No Final Exams, state assessments, DRA2, STAR Math/ELA and district placements tests will be administered. The College Board will administer AP assessments. See information below:

- [Updates from the College Board](#) The College Board has posted these Instructional Resources for teachers and students:
  - [AP Live](#) review classes that students and teachers can attend for free.
  - This year's AP Exams will occur **May 11-15 and May 18-22**, with a make-up exam option of June 1-5. The complete exam schedule can be found [here](#).

**Q16: How will students be placed in Middle School Math (Accelerated Algebra and Math Lab) and ELA (Lit. Lab)?**

A: Placement exams will not be administered due to COVID challenges. Placement decisions will be made based on student performance data gathered prior to the district moving to remote learning.

**Q17: Are there plans for summer programming?**

A: To be determined. Details to follow.

## Technology

**Q18: How does my child log in to remote online learning resources?**

A: Students can enter Google Classrooms. Chromebooks and Google Classroom can only be accessed using an @mpsdnj.us Google account. Please contact MPS Technology Help Line at 973-509-4000 extension 4357 password / log on assistance.

Clever is also a platform used to access other instructional resources. Clever can be accessed through the link on our district homepage or [here](#) and students login using their Google account.

For 9-12 additional information: [MHS Distance Learning Site](#)

**Q19: Where can I get technology help?**

A: If your child's teacher cannot assist you, please contact the MPS Technology Help Line at 973-509-4000 extension 4357. Please leave a message and include the student's name, a number to contact you at, and what the issue is that you are experiencing. We will be monitoring this number M-F from 8am - 3pm.

**Q20: What happens if my child's district-provided Chromebook stops working or breaks?**

A: If your child was assigned a Chromebook and is in need of repair, please contact the MPS Technology Help Line at 973-509-4000 extension 4357. Please leave a message and include the student's name, a number to contact you at, and what the issue is that you are experiencing. We will be monitoring this number M-F from 8am - 3pm.

**Q21: How do I access the Genesis parent portal to see grades and teacher comments for my child?**

A: Please see instructions on our district website page: [Genesis for Parents](#).

We hope that you find this FAQ document useful as you continue to negotiate your way through this new learning environment. Please feel free to reach us should you have any questions or concerns.