



412 S. Sweigle Avenue
P.O. Box 188
Molalla, Oregon 97038
503-829-2359

Tony Mann, Superintendent

March 25, 2020

Dear Molalla Families,

As you all know, we are living in and navigating through unprecedented times. During this time of uncertainty, it is the intention of MRSD to continue to support our staff, students and families with consistent communication and resources.

We are excited to welcome back all students (remotely, from home) on **Monday, April 6th**. We are working diligently to prepare for students return with supplemental learning opportunities, and are awaiting some additional insights from the Oregon Department of Education (ODE). Until those details are received, we wanted to communicate what we know for sure today, with a commitment to update everyone once additional details become available.

Teaching and Learning Preparation

In addition to extending school closures through April 28th, Governor Brown's Executive Order created provisions for school districts to offer supplemental learning opportunities to all students during the closure order. The days ahead will look and feel differently than being in-person at school with teachers and classmates, however, we anticipate that our students will continue to learn and thrive during this time. Absent new information, we are expecting to begin providing for this supplementary education with appropriate learning supports beginning April 6, 2020. There is nothing you need to do at this time. We will be contacting all of our families, on or before April 6th.

Devices, Internet Access and Materials

As we work to develop the best learn-from-home experiences for our students, we are looking very closely at leveraging online learning scenarios, particularly at the middle and high school levels. This may also include our intermediate grades (4-5) at some point, but initially our supplementary learning experiences K-5 are likely to be similar to the Learning Go-Bags that were distributed at our elementary schools last week.

On March 19th, we launched a technology survey to all families in the district requesting information about student's access to dedicated internet and to a device with a keyboard to tap into supplemental learning opportunities. We are still receiving input from our community.

Our goal is to devise a plan to loan out an instructional device (Chromebook) to those students/families without access to this technology during the school closure period. We will also be able to provide free mobile hotspots courtesy of T-Mobile and families can also sign up at no cost for 60 days for dedicated internet service through Molalla Communications.



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If you haven't taken the quick technology survey yet, please access the it below

English: [At Home Technology Access](#)

Spanish: [Access de Tecnología en el Hogar](#)

Grab-and-Go Meals

For persons 18 and younger, regardless of where in the school district a family might live, "Grab-and-Go" meals are available this week. During what would have been spring break, Grab-and-Go lunch will be available for pick up at Molalla Elementary School from 10:15 AM – 11:15 AM each day. Beginning Monday, March 30th, we will also be adding Mulino Elementary School as a meal distribution site.

Grab-and-Go breakfast and lunch will be available at both Molalla and Mulino Elementary from 9:15 AM – 11:15 AM Monday-Friday beginning March 30th.

Introduction of FAQ page on District website

We are pleased to introduce a Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) page on our district website (www.molallariv.k12.or.us) as a resource for our families and students. You can access the FAQ page, as a link under COVID-19 District Information on our Home Page.

Other Important Updates

- Reminder: School Playgrounds and Athletic Fields are Closed

All Molalla school grounds, playgrounds and athletic fields are temporarily closed to comply with the Governor's Executive Order to curb the spread of COVID-19. All sports and community group practices and games are cancelled. We ask all visitors to respect state guidance relative to these efforts.

- Spring Season Athletics and Activities

Oregon School Activities Association (OSAA) announced, per the governor's mandate, it is postponing all spring season activities and athletics through April 28. Visit OSAA site

- Delivering Supports to Students with Diverse Needs

District special education leadership is working to develop appropriate strategies to assist students with special education needs related to their access to the supplemental learning opportunities. District staff will be contacting families with suggested support plans.

- Mental Health and Counseling Services

Those families who benefit from Trillium Family Services can continue to participate in therapeutic services throughout the school closure. Please contact your counselor directly to coordinate.

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- Grade Level Advancement

We anticipate every MRSD student to rise a grade level next year. We will be assessing the needs of each student in our district to continue progressing; students will not repeat a grade because of the circumstances created by the pandemic.

- Spring AP Exams

The college board announced that Advanced Placement (AP) tests, scheduled for May, will be administered to students online. It will be a 45-minute online assessment. The College Board expects colleges to accept the shortened AP exam for credit due to the emergency circumstances created by COVID-19. [Visit College Board for more information](#)

- Molalla High School Seniors

Graduation Ceremony - It is a top priority to move seniors toward an on time graduation in early June. Graduation is currently scheduled for June 6th, and we are going to do everything possible to maintain that timeline.

Graduation Announcements - Jostens had been planning an early April distribution of graduation announcements for those that ordered them. That timeline is currently on hold, but we are in conversation with Jostens regarding an adjusted timeline. We will share more information with you as soon as it becomes available.

- Additional Resources- Helping your Students Manage Stress and/or Feelings of Loss
Included below are excerpts from two articles that may help inform you, as you help your student navigate their own feelings of stress, anxiety or loss during this unsettled time.

Grades K-6

Excerpt from : *Supporting Kids during the Coronavirus Crisis*, Child Mind Institute, Rae Jacobson. [Read Full Article](#)

1. Keep Routines in Place- Experts all agree that setting and sticking to a regular schedule is key.
2. Be creative about new Activities and Exercise- Incorporate some new activities into your schedule. (Those things that are hard to manage when everyone's schedule is so busy). Build in activities that help everyone get some exercise.
3. Manage your own Anxiety-Keeping your worries in check will help your whole family navigate this uncertain situation as easily as possible.
4. Limit consumption of News-Staying informed is important, but its a good idea to limit consumption of news and social media that has the potential to feed your anxiety and that of your kids.

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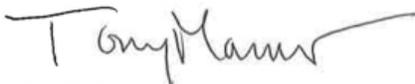
5. Stay in Touch, Virtually-Keep your support network strong, even if you are only able to call, text or video chat friends and family. Communication can help kids feel less alone and mitigate some of the stress that comes from being away from friends.
6. Make Plans- In the face events that are scary and largely out of our controls, it is important to be proactive about the things you can control. Making plans can help your kids visualize the near future. What can your family do outside? What new foods can you cook in the kitchen? Make lists that your kids can add to. Seeing you problem solve in response to this crisis can be instructive and reassuring for kids.
7. Keep it Positive, Keep kids in the Loop, Keep it Simple-“Talking to children in a clear, reasonable way about what’s going on is the best way to help them understand. But remember, kids don’t need to know every little thing.” Dr. Rachel Busman, PsyD. “Unless kids ask specifically, there is no reason to offer information that might worry them.”

Grades 7-12

Excerpt from: *Quaranteenagers, Strategies for Parenting in Close Quarters*, New York Times, Lisa Damour, [Read Full Article](#)

1. Make Space for Disappointment and Sadness- Offer empathy to disheartened teenagers as they reflect what has been lost (social time, activities, sporting events, school dances etc.)
2. Make Space for Relief and Joy- It is okay to embrace the upsides of this disruption (not having to finish a challenging project, not reading a book they were not interested in)
3. Expect Friction Regarding Their Social Life- When adolescents can’t see their peers in person, it’s only fair to expect some frustration.
4. Allow for some Privacy and Alone Time- Welcome your teenagers company but also enable them to spend some time alone during this time.
5. Treat Teenagers as Problem Solving Partners-Teenagers can be just as creative as most adults. They welcome empathy, they are resilient and adaptable, they appreciate, and tend to live up to high expectations. Make them your partner in navigating these new rules and routines for daily living.

Sincerely,



Tony Mann
Superintendent