

Dear MCS Families,

As a follow-up to my previous email, I wanted to provide more information regarding our MCS school closure. You can expect additional correspondence in the coming days and throughout the closure; this particular email is simply intended to address questions your family may have during this most unusual time.

**School Closure:**

Based on recommendations by state officials and health experts, all MCS schools and offices are closed effective March 16 for at least two weeks. All MCS schools and offices are open Friday, March 13. The rationale for remaining open tomorrow is to allow staff and students to prepare for an extended closure, as this announcement was made after dismissal today. As of the time of this email, to our knowledge we have no reported COVID-19 cases in MCS.

At this point, we will be closed for at least two weeks; however, based on recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Cobb & Douglas Public Health and in collaboration with other metro-Atlanta school districts, school closures could be extended beyond this initial two-week period. During our school closure, no students or staff should report to any MCS school or office.

**Student Activities:**

With the exception of our after-school program (ASP) for elementary students, all student activities are cancelled as of the end of our school day on Friday, March 13. This includes all school events over the weekend (March 14-15) and for the duration of the school closure. Before-school programs (BSP) will be offered on Friday morning, March 13 (as normal).

Per the Georgia High School Association (GHSA) guidance we received tonight, the GHSA State Literary Meets are expected to be made up at a future date; the status of the remaining spring sports seasons is yet to be determined. As for field trips and school events after the closure ends (acknowledging, at this point, our return date to school is not confirmed), we will review on a case-by-case basis.

**Continuity of Learning:**

As referenced in previous communication, this past school year we launched Schoology, an online portal where teachers can provide learning resources for students. Today, all MCS families received a reminder email with your username and password. If you have not done so already, we encourage you to use your parent or student log-in **now** to ensure you know how to access Schoology. If you need additional assistance in accessing Schoology, please email [schoologysupport@marietta-city.k12.ga.us](mailto:schoologysupport@marietta-city.k12.ga.us). For students who may not have access to home technology, our schools will be prepared to offer additional resources and support.

Our goal relative to student learning during the school closure is simple: we want to keep students connected to learning and their teacher(s). We are working to find the appropriate balance for working families and families with limited access to technology. We openly acknowledge that no online portal will be able to replicate the quality of your child's teacher and classroom. This is new territory for all of us; I kindly ask for your patience and understanding as we support our teachers so they can, in turn, support your child and family.

**Student Meals:**

We are awaiting permission from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to implement a meal distribution program next week. We will communicate with staff and families once we receive the required approvals and determine a start date for this program.

**Spring Break:**

I have been asked a reasonable question that you also may be asking: is it possible that we would have to make-up school days during Spring Break? No, your scheduled Spring Break (April 6-10) will not be changed.

**Communication:**

My commitment to you, as both superintendent and a MCS father, is to communicate early and often. At a minimum, you may expect an update from me each Friday (during the closure) by 5:00 p.m. As a reminder, this email and all previous communications are posted at [www.marietta-city.org/coronavirus](http://www.marietta-city.org/coronavirus).

In closing, on behalf of our dedicated and compassionate MCS staff, please know we will do everything possible to rally around and support your child and family during the school closure. We are in this together – for the health and well-being of our children and our community. The citizens and staff of our great city have risen to every occasion in the past; I am confident we will do so again.

Sincerely,  
Grant

Grant Rivera, Ed.D.  
Superintendent  
Marietta City Schools