

Dear MCS Staff and Families,

As we close out this most unusual week of "school," I wanted to provide each of you with an update regarding our school closure and continued efforts to support each of you.

Family Technology Survey

This week, we asked each MCS family to complete a technology survey. Our goal was simple but critically important: to personalize the support we provide our students and their family. If a family requested assistance with Schoology or access to a device or internet (and provided contact information), we will reach out by email or phone next week. While we can't change the reality of our circumstances; we can customize our support to the needs of each MCS family – look for us to do just that in the coming days.

Equity of Access

During the closure, students are using Schoology to maintain some degree of connection to their learning and their teacher(s). Our moral and academic responsibility is to be responsive to any child who does not have access to a device or internet; we cannot conveniently overlook that students without access to Schoology will fall further behind as the school closure continues. We invited our greater community to support our efforts through the new "[Connect-a-Kid](#)" program, thereby making a donation to support one month of internet access for an MCS student. At the time of this email, our community has donated over \$13,500 toward this effort.

This afternoon, our MCS BOE held an emergency meeting to approve distribution of Chromebooks and wireless hotspots to MCS students who need them. I am proud of their bold move to address equity of access. For those families who asked for this support, look for more details next week regarding distribution of technology devices

School Closure – When Will This End?

As a parent of a MCS student, I realize this is the most obvious question I need to address. At this point, the honest answer is: I truly don't know. I acknowledge that other school districts may be projecting a specific return date. In the absence of any clear guidance from state and national officials, I do not feel comfortable guessing on when our school doors will open. In fact, during my call today with Cobb & Douglas Public Health, it was stated it is highly likely the number of coronavirus cases will continue to increase in the coming weeks. As such, a return to school would be even more unlikely as we are directed, per our community mitigation strategy, to further social distance and self-quarantine. With all that said, I don't know when we will return to school; but I promise to over-communicate with you as I know more information.

No Kid Hungry

We are proud to have delivered 9,323 meals to MCS students this week. Each day, across 81 stops along 18 bus routes in our community, we are delivering a healthy breakfast and lunch. I am eternally grateful for the school nutrition staff, bus drivers, and volunteers who selflessly (and safely) make sure that no kid in Marietta goes hungry. For the well-being of our students and staff, please know we are following strict health guidelines in food

preparation and delivery; we will continue do the same going forward as we seek to meet our moral and social responsibility to feed children.

In closing, I thank each of you for your persistence, patience, and understanding. Now more than ever, I am grateful for how each of you continues to support our MCS children and community. Please continue to over-communicate with school staff or me as you have specific needs – we are all here for your success.

Sincerely,
Grant

Grant Rivera, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Marietta City Schools