



MARIN COUNTY

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April 7, 2020

Dear Families,

We hope you are all healthy and safe during this incredibly challenging and uncertain time. While we cannot gather together, our staff is here for you and our team will continue to do everything we can to support you. As we have transitioned from classroom-based learning to distance learning, we have several important updates for you.

Resources and Opportunities

The physical and mental health of our students and staff is our top priority. There are a wide variety of community resources available through local organizations. For example, school lunches and food distribution centers are now located throughout Marin and we have counseling services available to support students remotely. To learn more about how to access these resources and opportunities, please go to our website at www.marinschools.org/mcs or contact Saul Godinez at: 415-966-1520.

School Closure Update

Today, Marin County has aligned with six Bay Area county health officers and county superintendents of schools to make a unified, regional decision to extend school closures through the end of the school year to reduce the spread of COVID-19. All schools will continue to provide instruction through distance learning. This decision follows statement by Governor Newsom and State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond suggesting that California's students would not likely be able to return to campus for in-person learning for the remainder of this school year.

Distance Learning Plan

All students at Marin's Community School and Phoenix Academy Charter School should have access to a computer and internet access at this time. We have distributed Chromebook computers and hot spots to families who needed devices. Please notify Jonathan Lucha at lucha@marinschools.org or 415-491-0581 if you need support with login information or technology.

A link to our online schedule is located on our website. The schedule document includes online meeting rooms with links, so students must use their school email account to access the details of the document. Students should meet with each of their teachers at least two times per week online and do work independently throughout the school day. Our learning coaches are available to support students' social, emotional and academic progress throughout the school day. We will provide updated schedules for students on April 13, 2020, so that all students know what they need to focus on in these last few months of school. Beginning April 13, we will also provide a variety of online elective opportunities to engage students.

Students should login daily to <https://marinschools.learning.powerschool.com> and attend all of their class sessions so that they can access daily assignments and get feedback on their learning from their teachers.

Grading During Distance Learning

Please see your student's grades for quarter 3 attached to this letter. As we move into quarter 4 and are providing support remotely, we know we cannot continue with business as usual. In order to be as equitable as possible as we provide instruction remotely, we are going to shift our grading practices for the remainder of this school year. We will use a "universal credit" grading system. **As a minimum, all students will earn 2.5 credits in core classes and 1.25 credits in elective classes they are enrolled in during quarter 4. We will not use letter grades and instead students will earn**

“Credit” for each class. To earn additional credits, students will need to demonstrate their growth and mastery of knowledge and skills throughout quarter 4. Our decision was guided by input from teachers, guidance from the California Department of Education, recent decisions by the University of California system, and discussions with local education leaders. Many universities across the country have communicated that students will not be penalized for earning “Credit” instead of a letter grade for this year. We hope that this move reduces anxiety relating to grades while creating a path forward that encourages students to continually engage in learning remotely.

Graduation

Seniors still have the opportunity to graduate on time and we will do everything we can to support them. Our graduation ceremony is scheduled for **June 9th from 6-8pm**. At this time, we do not know what our graduation ceremony will look like, but rest assured, we will celebrate our graduates and honor their hard work.

Communication

We use Remind 101 to send important updates to students and parents. If you are not receiving text alerts from our school, please notify Lucia Echeverria Madera at 415-491-0581 and she can help you sign up. Please also check our website to access important information and resources: www.marinschools.org/mcs

We hope you and your family stay healthy and safe during this difficult time. We miss seeing you and your students each day and send you our love.

Sincerely,



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