



---

# MARIN COUNTY

---

## OFFICE OF EDUCATION

---

1111 Las Gallinas Avenue/P.O. Box 4925  
San Rafael, CA 94913-4925  
[marincoe@marin.k12.ca.us](mailto:marincoe@marin.k12.ca.us)

MARY JANE BURKE  
MARIN COUNTY  
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

(415) 472-4110  
FAX (415) 491-6625  
TDD (415) 491-6611

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](http://www.marinschools.org/mcs) or contact Saul Godinez at: 415-491-0581.

### *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*

Our teachers have been preparing and distributing individual assignments via mail or electronically, depending on students' needs. Teachers will contact students individually during their regular meeting times via phone and/or through zoom meetings to communicate assignments and provide feedback.

If you have questions, please contact:

Peter Burchard: [peterdb@sonic.net](mailto:peterdb@sonic.net) or

Howard Nakagawa: [hnakagawa@marinschools.org](mailto:hnakagawa@marinschools.org)

### *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 10 credits total for core classes and 2.5 total credits for elective classes during quarter 4. We will not use letter grades and instead students' grades will say, "Credit" for each course they are enrolled in. To earn additional credits, students will need to demonstrate their growth and mastery of knowledge and skills throughout quarter 4 with teachers.** 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. Moving to this system will not change students' grade point average (GPA) as these grades will not be included in students' calculation of GPAs. Many universities across the country have communicated that students will not be penalized for having a "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](http://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.

Sinceramente,

*Katy Foster*

**Katy Foster**  
Co-Principal  
(415) 491-0581  
kfoster@marinschools.org

*Erin Ashley*

**Erin Ashley**  
Co-Principal  
(415) 491-0581  
eashley@marinschools.org