



# MABELLE B. AVERY MIDDLE SCHOOL

1 Vision Boulevard, Somers, Connecticut 06071  
(860)749-2270

Mrs. Margot Martello  
Principal

Mr. Michael McDonnell  
Assistant Principal

March 16, 2020

Dear Students and Families,

Well, **beginning Monday, March 23, 2020**, we are going to encounter an adventure as we begin distance learning! In the words of Michael Jordan, "Obstacles don't have to stop you. If you run into a wall, don't turn around and give up. Figure out how to climb it, go through it, or work around it." Together with patience, understanding, and flexibility, we will overcome this obstacle!

This letter is to serve as an introduction to how we will go about school for the next few weeks as we wait for the Coronavirus to pass. I hope that you share this letter with your parents/guardians and even hang it on your refrigerator! There will be more information that comes from your teachers each day, but this will prepare you for the next steps we will take on this journey together.

## The Plan!

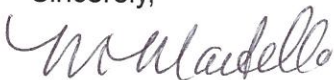
1. We invite students to **follow the regular school schedule with us!** Yup! That's right! We are still having school! Many students will benefit from having the regular daily structure in place for them. We understand that for some families, this may be difficult. If you *require* greater flexibility, please reach out to your teachers directly. We will be flexible with your needs. Most classes will be posting recorded direct instruction that can be accomplished at any time. Teachers will be available during the school day to help answer questions that may come up. We also want to check in with you to make sure everyone is doing ok!

	Start	End
A (1)	7:44	8:27
B (2)	8:30	9:13
C (3) (9:59-10:03 snack)	9:16	10:03
D (4)	10:06	10:49
E (5)	10:52	11:35
F (6)	11:38	12:49
<b>Class time</b>	11:38	12:25
<b>Lunch time</b>	12:26	12:49
G (7)	12:52	1:35
H (8)	1:38	2:20

2. Because we still need to account for all students, **attendance will be taken based on the work you complete for each class!** So, it is important that you view the instruction, work on the assignments, and turn your work in to be counted as present in school.
3. Each teacher will have their own plan for **delivering assignments to you**. You are already familiar with many of these methods! For example, the class blog, the Google Classroom, the teacher's webpage, Showbie, email and other technologies can be used for this purpose!
4. Each teacher will also have their own way of **delivering instruction**. They may use Google Hangouts/Meet, a recording of their direct instruction with a screen mirroring program called ScreenCastify, or other applications to support this effort.
5. If you have questions about the **technology** or problems with your Chromebooks, please contact Ms. Jennings ([diane.jennings@somers.k12.ct.us](mailto:diane.jennings@somers.k12.ct.us)) for assistance.
6. **If your child is ill** and is unable to attend on any given day, please call the regular attendance line (call 860-749-2270, press 4 for MBA, and press 1 for attendance) and report your child's absence. It is hoped that at some point during the week the student will be able to complete the work for the day that is missed.
7. Just as we have noted that we will be flexible with your needs, we hope that you will **be flexible with us**. This is our first experience with this type of instruction delivery. We have worked hard to consider various possibilities and will need to be given the flexibility to make adjustments and changes as we go along. Additionally, let's remember that our teachers are human, have children, and may get sick. We appreciate your understanding as we go along with our plan to the best of our ability!

Attached to this letter, the teachers in your grade level have explained how they will communicate with you during this period of school closure. Read what they have to share with you below! Accept the challenge and let's make this happen! Time to show just how much MBA R.O.C.K.S.!!!

Sincerely,



Mrs. Martello  
Principal

## Grade 6

**Daily Announcements:** Each day, Mrs. Martello will send out announcements via email. She will include which "day" of the schedule it is and also something cheery for everyone to enjoy!

**LA with Ms. Bittner:** Class instruction will be conducted via Google Hangouts. I will be able to see and hear all the kids and they will be able to see and hear me (it's like FaceTime). Assignments will be posted on Google Classroom. They will be able to submit assignments and receive feedback through Google Classroom and Google Docs. Students have experience using Classroom/Docs and are confident they can be successful through this mode of instruction. Online tools that students will have available to them include: Google Classroom, Google Hangouts, the 6th Grade Blog, IXL, Showbie, and ScreenCastify. Students may chat with me through Google Hangouts or email me any time.

**LA with Mrs. Lipman:** Class instruction will be conducted via Google Hangouts. I will be able to see and hear all the kids and they will be able to see and hear me (it's like FaceTime). Assignments will be posted on Google Classroom. They will be able to submit assignments and receive feedback through Google Classroom and Google Docs. Students have experience using Classroom/Docs and are confident they can be successful through this mode of instruction.

**Science with Mr. Lewis:** I plan to follow a similar arrangement as LA using a combination of Google Hangouts and Google Classroom. Additionally there may be times where instruction will be delivered with the website Nearpod and assignments/assessments may be completed with Quia. The students are familiar with both of these sites.

**Social Studies with Mr. Gieras:** World Regions will be using a variety of ways to follow instruction. All students have access to an online version of their textbook and a hardcopy. Online tools that are available to use will include: Google Classroom, Showbie, ScreenCastify, Google Hangouts, the 6th Grade Blog, IXL, BrainPop, Quia and Trackstar. Please check Google Classroom each day to follow the daily plans.

**Math with Ms. Connor:** Instruction will be conducted through Google Classroom. Daily announcements will be created with instructions on how to access the material for the day. I will be available to "chat" via Google Hangouts with students during their scheduled class time to provide feedback and offer assistance. Any additional online tools will be posted in announcements with instructions and may include IXL, Khan Academy, ScreenCastify, IReady, and Google Forms.

**PE with Mr. McCarthy:** I will connect with my students through Google Classroom and possibly Google Hangouts. I will post the assignments in Google Classroom. Students will record and maintain a physical activity log.

**PE with Mrs. Messenger:** I will connect with my students through the email system. On the first day of distance learning, students will receive an email from me with the directions. Students will record and maintain a physical activity log and email it to me every Friday. I will monitor my email during class time if there are any questions that come up.

**Success Seminar with Mrs. Sakos:** On odd days (as always), class instruction and assignments will be conducted through Google Meets/Hangouts and Google Classroom. Students can chat with me through Google Hangouts during their scheduled class time. They may also email me anytime whenever needed. I will be checking my email throughout the day.

**Literacy Skills with Mrs. O’Konis/Ms. Remington:** Students should refer to Google Classroom for material. I am hopeful that each of you was able to bring home your Warm Up materials. Please bring these back to school when we return. Some of you will have Megawords books that you will need.

**Math Skills with Mrs. Cranna / Mrs. Curtis:** We will continue to work primarily with the ALEKS online program. Students will be assigned a specific number of lessons to complete per week. Mrs. Cranna and Mrs. Curtis have each set up a Google Classroom - please check this each morning for instructions and updates. We will be available for instruction and additional help via Google Meet during class time, and by email as well.

**Band with Mrs. Wolf:** Class instruction will be conducted via Google Meet. Assignments will be posted on Google Classroom. Students will be able to submit assignments and receive feedback through Google Classroom. Students will also use their Chromebooks to record themselves performing selections of our music and submit their recordings through Google Classroom. 6th Grade lessons will still be offered for all lesson groups (flute, clarinet, etc...) and will follow the schedule posted in Google Classroom. Lessons will be recorded and posted in Google Classroom for any students who are not able to attend their scheduled time. I will be available through Google Classroom, through Google Meet (scheduled via google classroom during certain class times), and via email as needed.

**Chorus with Mrs. Kraus:** Students will find all information, assignments, lessons, etc. in Google Classroom. We will use the chrome extension “ScreenCastify” to make recordings, (which students are already familiar with). They will then post their recordings privately in Google Classroom. I will be available through Google Classroom, through Google Meet (scheduled via google classroom during certain class times), and via email as needed.

**Art with Mrs. Koulisis:** Students will be able to find information for art class through Google Classroom. In Google Classroom, students will be able to watch videos, read articles, and provide written responses and images of their work.

**Special Education with Mr. Lurate:** Students will utilize Google Classroom and Google Meets. I will check in with grade level teachers and monitor Powerschool to notify students of missing assignments. Students can reach out to me through email and check in if they have questions or need assistance with an assignment.

**Special Education with Ms. Righter (Full Day Students):** We will be using Google Classroom and Google Hangouts/ Meets. Students have been set up with Google Classroom and with Google Hangouts/Meets.

**Special Education with Ms. Righter (Resource Room Students):** We will be using Google Classroom and Google Hangouts/Meets.