



MABELLE B. AVERY MIDDLE SCHOOL

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(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
Class time	11:38	12:25
Lunch time	12:26	12:49
G (7)	12:52	1:35
H (8)	1:38	2:20

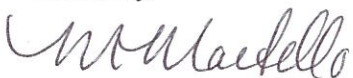
Vision: The Somers Public Schools strives to be an exceptional and innovative educational community.

Mission: Prepare each student to contribute and succeed in an ever-changing global society.

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) 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 7

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 Mrs. Rivard: All classwork will be sent out and collected through Google Classroom. Instruction will be conducted through Screencastify and Google Meetings/Hangouts. The method of instruction will be communicated in that day’s Google Classroom assignment.

LA with Mr. Nevins: Students should continue to use the Teacher Homework Blog. All of my attendance/ classwork will be shared using a combination of Google Drive and Google Classroom. Attendance will be taken each day using Google Forms (Distance Learning Classroom Attendance Form). Additional resources I’ll be using include Edulastic, NEWSELA, and ReadWorks.

Science with Mrs. Lyver: All directions and assignments for class will be in Google Classroom. Each day there will be a new “assignment” in Google Classroom, and there it will tell students what to do and where to go (such as check in at Google Hangouts, read an article, go to BrainPop etc..)

Social Studies with Ms. Reynolds: I will connect with my students through Google Hangouts and email. Classwork and homework will be accessible through Google Classroom. Instruction will be provided through Google Hangouts as well. Students should continue to use the Teacher Homework Blog.

Math with Ms. Scholes: All directions and assignments will be in Showbie. Any “worksheets” and assignments should be submitted through Showbie. IXL’s and Khan Academy will continue to be graded as usual. Please be sure to watch any videos posted or assigned through Khan Academy. Look for links for Google Meet where we will meet as a class.

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.

French A / Spanish A with Mrs. Kunzleman:

Students will continue with class almost exactly as it is typically conducted. I will post “in session” topics, class work, and assignments to the team blog daily, and I will email as needed too.

ABC (Always Be Checking)!

- Google Hangouts (Meet) will be used to practice concepts, review work, ask questions, and keep up-to-date. This will take place during our normal class times for those who want to do it.
- Showbie will continue to be used to disseminate information, including videos of lessons, and to complete class work and assignments. We will use the “Classroom Discussion” feature for questions one may have when class is not “in session” on Google Hangouts (Meet).
- Quizlet will continue to be used for studying vocabulary.
- Quia will continue to be used for assessments.

Spanish A with Mr. Mezger:

Students will continue with class almost exactly as it is typically conducted. I will post in Showbie daily class objectives, topics, class work, assignments, the Google Meet code, and I will email as needed. Assignments will be posted to the team blog daily too.

ABC (Always Be Checking)!

- Google Hangouts (Meet) will be used to practice concepts, review work, ask questions, and keep up-to-date. This will take place during our normal class times for those who want to do it.
- Showbie will continue to be used to disseminate information, including videos of lessons, and to complete class work and assignments. We will use the "Classroom Discussion" feature for questions one may have when class is not "in session" on Google Hangouts (Meet).
- Quizlet will continue to be used for studying vocabulary.
- Quia will continue to be used for assessments.

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. 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.

Life Skills with Mr. Brown: The Google Classroom Platform will be used for all classwork and interaction needed with me. Students will be able to interact with me during the remote classroom session by way of a "comment form." It will be accessed on that day's assignment on Google Classroom along with any worksheets or video material. All communication is requested to be direct and specific to their needs / questions with as few words as possible.

Special Education with Ms. Dunlap: I will connect with my students through Google Classroom and possibly Google Hangouts. I will modify assignments/assessments as needed. I will monitor students' progress on PowerSchool and I will create a document with all the assignments students are expected to complete with due dates for all. I will also communicate with students and parents through email.

Speech and Language with Ms. Behmer: I will connect with my students and provide practice of skills primarily through Showbie (students will receive a class code via email). Students should check Showbie during resource time for assignments/ materials from me that support their academics and IEP goals. The

amount and frequency of materials students receive from me will correlate to the number of times I see them in a 6-day cycle. I will use email and possibly Google Hangouts to support students as needed. If a student is having trouble at any point in the school day with a language based assignment including classwork or assignments generated by me, please send me an email. I will either respond in writing or initiate a conversation via one of the learning/ communication platforms mentioned above.

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

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

