



MABELLE B. AVERY MIDDLE SCHOOL

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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

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 8

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. Cichon:

Google Classroom will be utilized to post the daily activity. A To-Do list will be posted each day with video recordings of directions, written directions, direct instruction, links, notes, etc. A link/code for Google Meet will be in the top of the to do list and will be used at the beginning of each class to take attendance.

Each day students will:

1. Login to Google Classroom and open up the to do list, click on the Google Meet link/code. I will check in at the beginning of the first block using Google Meet.
2. Log off Google Meet, and complete the work in the to do list. This will include videos of direct instruction, worksheets, notes, etc.
3. If students have a question during the assignments, students can log back in to Google Meet to ask me a question during the class period, use Google Hangouts or email me.
4. Homework will be posted in the 8th grade blog.

LA with Mrs. Wilson:

Students will connect with me during class time through the use of both Google Classroom and Meet. Assignments will be posted in Google Classroom, along with pertinent notes and links. The lesson will be delivered using Meets; the routine is:

1. A meeting link/code is posted in Google Classroom for the day, as well as the materials for the day.
2. Students will log into the meeting and attendance will be taken.
3. The lesson will commence with the aid of various attachments and links. The lesson will be recorded in Meets and posted in Google Classroom.
4. A whole-class task will be completed in conjunction with the day's objectives/standards.
5. Then, a follow up assignment will be done independently (the assignment will carry over as homework, if necessary).
6. If students have a question during the assignments, students can log back into Google Meet to ask me a question during the class period.
7. Students will sign back into the meeting for the last ten minutes of class time to review the day's lesson.
8. Homework will be posted on the 8th grade blog.

If students cannot attend during the class meeting time, they may email me when they do have access to their computer and I will count this as their attendance. Students may then view the days meeting in google classroom along with completing the days assignment.

Science with Mr. Estes:

All instructions for daily activities/assignments will be provided each day via Google Classroom. Google Meet will allow for face to face contact and visual science demonstrations when needed. Students will connect with me during class time through Google Classroom, Google Meet, and email.

Social Studies with Mr. Szafir:

Students will connect with me during class time through the use of both Google Classroom and Meet. Assignments will be posted in Google Classroom, along with pertinent notes and links. The lesson will be delivered using Meets; the routine is:

1. A meeting code is posted in Google Classroom for the day, as well as the materials for the day.

2. Students will log into the class and roll will be called.
3. The lesson will commence with the aid of various attachments and links.
4. A whole-class task will be completed in conjunction with the day's objectives/standards.
5. Then, a follow up assignment will be done independently (the assignment will carry over as homework, if necessary).

Math with Ms. Czyzniak:

Students will access assignments through daily lesson plans found on my website. Math videos are linked on my website, and written work will be submitted through Showbie. ***Please visit my website for detailed instructions.*** I will not be expecting you to check in with me during our usual class time. If you have any questions, please email me or communicate via the Showbie Link, **Distance Learning Chat Link*, between the hours of 8:00 - 12:00 and 1:35 - 2:25, Monday through Friday.

Math 8 with Mrs. Robidoux:

Math 8 students will connect with me via Google classroom. I will be assigning Ms. Czyzniak's video lessons which can be accessed through her webpage. I will have a Google Meet every day, Monday through Friday, at the usual class time (7:42-8:27). An invitation with the link will be sent to the students via email. The link will also be posted on Blogger. Attendance is not mandatory, but it is recommended to join in, receive instructions, and ask questions as needed.

Students have been given the packet for the next unit (Unit 5). They will take notes from the video lessons where indicated in the packet. They may be given assignments such as "My Task" or practice problems. The students will upload a picture of completed notes or tasks to Google classroom as close to the due date as possible. Submission of assignments will count as attendance for the class.

Students will need their math packet, a pencil, eraser, calculator and ruler to complete the lessons. If a student did not obtain the packet prior to distance learning, they can access it online through Ms. Czyzniak's website (link at the top of the 8th grade Blogger page). Hard copies are available at the MBA office if needed.. Please call ahead to arrange a time to pick one up.

Geometry with Mrs. Robidoux:

We will resume using OdysseyWare. I will communicate the daily lessons (video and computer) via Google classroom. I will send a link to the student via email to join the class. The student will complete the online assignments and quizzes at his own pace. A tentative lesson plan for the week will be posted on Monday, and the amount of progress will be assessed on Friday. I can view and grade the OdysseyWare assignments online once they are submitted. The OdysseyWare lessons will be supplemented with IXLs.

I will be available at the usual class time 8:30-9:15 to meet with the student, if needed, on Google Meet. If that time does not work for the student, we can arrange an alternate time at the student's request.

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.

French 1 with Mrs. Kunzelman:

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 1 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.

Tech Ed with Mr. Keener:

Tech Ed. will use Google Classroom to provide materials and assignments as well as collecting completed assignments. The class will also use ScreenCastify to deliver instruction in a video format. Email will also be used to assist individual students more directly.

Special Education with Ms. Cole:

We will use a combination of Google Classroom, emails, and Google Hangouts to provide support for academics and IEP goals. If a student is having trouble at any point in the school day, send me an email. I will either respond in writing or initiate a video conference. During assigned resource room time, students need to check Google Classroom for instruction or a link to a video conference.

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/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 Hangout/Meets.