

March 17, 2020

Dear MHS Families,

The halls of MHS are very quiet today. We miss our students and look forward to the day when they can return to school. In the meantime, we will stay connected through PowerSchool Learning and, as always, through email. Please see the topics below which contain important information for families.

Thank you and take care,

Sharon Putney

Any questions regarding **Special Education Services/Needs** please contact Student Services at 424-6211.

**PowerSchool Learning:** In our attempt to provide our learners with meaningful lessons and activities our staff members have been busy today working on their PowerSchool Learning sites and uploading lessons and resources to continue the important learning process. You can expect to see lessons begin to show up by 9:00 tomorrow morning. Students should check their school email frequently.

**Technology Access:** Those families who require hard copies of student materials as opposed to on-line access, please contact the Guidance Office at 424-6204 Ext 2 and let them know.

For families who need an additional computing device, the district is offering Chromebooks for student use at home.

Please call 603-424-6203 between the hours of 8am and 3pm. We will collect the information for your request and notify you when a device is ready to be picked up.

COMCAST is taking steps to implement the following new policies for the next 60 days, and other important initiatives:

- **Xfinity WiFi Free For Everyone:** Xfinity WiFi hotspots across the country will be available to anyone who needs them for free – including non-Xfinity Internet subscribers. For a map of Xfinity WiFi hotspots, visit

[www.xfinity.com/wifi](http://www.xfinity.com/wifi). Once at a hotspot, consumers should select the “xfinitywifi” network name in the list of available hotspots, and then launch a browser.

- **Pausing Our Data Plan:** With so many people working and educating from home, we want our customers to access the internet without thinking about data plans. While the vast majority of our customers do not come close to using 1TB of data in a month, we are pausing our data plans for 60 days giving all customers Unlimited data for no additional charge.
- **No Disconnects or Late Fees:** We will not disconnect a customer’s internet service or assess late fees if they contact us and let us know that they can’t pay their bills during this period. Our care teams will be available to offer flexible payment options and can help find other solutions.
- **Internet Essentials Free to New Customers:** As announced yesterday, it’s even easier for low-income families who live in a Comcast service area to sign-up for Internet Essentials, the nation’s largest and most comprehensive broadband adoption program. New customers will receive 60 days of complimentary Internet Essentials service, which is normally available to all qualified low-income households for \$9.95/month. Additionally, for all new and existing Internet Essentials customers, the speed of the program’s Internet service was increased to 25 Mbps downstream and 3 Mbps upstream. That increase will go into effect for no additional fee and it will become the new base speed for the program going forward.

**Guidance Update:** All of us in the Guidance Department are working to ensure that your needs are met whether it’s college/career questions, course selection or personal matters. To that end, we are available Monday – Friday from 7:30-2:15 via phone or email and will do our best to respond as quickly as we can during those hours. We can be reached as follows:

Main Guidance number: (603) 424-6204 ext. 2

[deborah.barker@sau26.org](mailto:deborah.barker@sau26.org) [brianna.ledoux@sau26.org](mailto:brianna.ledoux@sau26.org)

[rebekah.spotts@sau26.org](mailto:rebekah.spotts@sau26.org) [patricia.tyler@sau26.org](mailto:patricia.tyler@sau26.org)

[katherine.colbert@sau26.org](mailto:katherine.colbert@sau26.org) [daniel.leone@sau26.org](mailto:daniel.leone@sau26.org)

[christina.connor@sau26.org](mailto:christina.connor@sau26.org)

Second, to our senior class, all college deadlines remain as normal and if you require any additional information, please let your school counselor know. Most schools have statements regarding college visits/acceptance days and we urge you to check with those schools for the most up to date information. We also want to thank all of the students who so diligently completed the scholarships online; we will continue to work on those submissions as part of our normal timeline. To the entire class of 2020, we will update our Power School Learning should any information become available and will reach out to individual students as needed. Keep up the good work – we are very proud of you!

For our juniors, the SAT school day is not continuing as planned and as soon as any updated information is available from the state, we will make sure you know. Unfortunately, our College and Career Fair was cancelled, but our response from those attendees has been very supportive and many have offered to visit in the fall to ensure they can meet the needs of the class of 2021.

For all students, we will continue to work with pre-enrollments and we will contact students/families if those forms are missing. Our Power School Learning page has updated forms for your use and we encourage you to review the Program of Studies for course information, which is available online on the MHS website.

**For any student utilizing VLACS, Keystone or American School,** please keep up the hard work and communicate with your counselor if you require extensions or have general questions.

We encourage you to reach out to a counselor at any time. For special circumstances, our school district does have a comprehensive resource guide that is available online through the district homepage. For any crisis, please contact 911.

As we navigate this time together, we do so with the best interests of our students in mind. They are the reason we come to school each day and we look forward to seeing them again in our office

**Student Materials/Supplies at MHS:** Some of our students have materials here at Merrimack High School that will be necessary for them to have at home.

- ✓ Teachers who have materials prepared for student pick-up will be notifying students directly and those materials will be in the Main Office lobby for pick up.
- ✓ Other students have their musical instruments to pick up as well as chorus folders or have materials such as textbooks and workbooks in their lockers.

**Pick-Up Schedule:** Students who need to pick up items will need to follow the procedure below for Wednesday, 3/18 and Thursday, 3/19 (possibly Friday as well; we will let you know)

- ✓ Drive up to the front of MHS at the blue awning at the designated time
- ✓ Someone will let you know when it is OK to get out of the car and go into MHS. Only a limited number of students will be allowed in at a time.
- ✓ The student will pick up the items needed and exit through the Main Office when the next student will then be allowed in. We DO NOT want lines of students waiting to enter the building; students must wait in their cars.
- ✓ The schedule will be alphabetical by last name. If you cannot make it at the designated time, please feel free to come when your schedule allows.

9:00-10:00 Last Name (A-C)

10:00-11:00 Last Name (D-G)

11:00-12:00 Last Name (H-M)

12:00-1:00 Last Name (N-R)

1:00-2:00 Last Name (S\_Z)

**Evening Academy:** For student enrolled in Evening Academy classes, these classes will continue online. Students should continue working from home. Units will be unlocked one at a time as a student completes them. Progress will be continually monitored by the assigned teachers, and teachers will be available through email for assistance as necessary during the digital office hours of 9:00-11:00 and 1:00-2:00. Pretests for each unit will remain locked. Students should complete each tutorial and each mastery test. Social Studies and Math students will have their unit tests locked until they can be completed under supervision. English students will have each unit unlocked. We will readdress Math and Social Studies unit tests

as the school closure situation develops. Questions should be directed to individual teachers:

Ron Delude – math [ronald.delude@sau26.org](mailto:ronald.delude@sau26.org)

Marla Jones – Social Studies [marla.jones@sau26.org](mailto:marla.jones@sau26.org)

Jan Moynihan-Cooney – English [jan.moynihancooney@sau26.org](mailto:jan.moynihancooney@sau26.org)

Elissa Montemerlo – English [elissa.montemerla@sau26.org](mailto:elissa.montemerla@sau26.org)

or to the Evening Academy director, Susan Ruggeri [susan.ruggeri@sau26.org](mailto:susan.ruggeri@sau26.org)

**CTE Students:** Each student attending Alvirne High School for their CTE Program has an sau81.org email address, which is where an email about instruction will be sent. Students should be checking those emails. They should also be signing into their google classroom accounts for work that the teachers will be uploading each week. We officially start remote instruction on Monday, March 23.