

Miller Place Union Free School District

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October 13, 2020

RE: MPSD - Phase II for Secondary Instruction

Dear Miller Place School District Community:

As discussed over the past several weeks, the District has been developing a Phase II for secondary instruction designed to increase student-teacher contact time and allow for improved instruction from the current hybrid model on asynchronous days. This would be delivered by live streaming teacher-provided classroom lessons. The District was prepared to share this information, along with the details, with the community later this week as logistical matters were being finalized.

It was brought to our attention, today faculty members may have chosen to speak directly to students about the live streaming instruction initiative prior to the District and the Miller Place Teachers' Association having the opportunity to release the information to the community. It was never our intention for the information to be shared directly with students in this manner, who may or may not have correctly reiterated the information with parents. In turn, some parents have resorted to social media to discuss the topic ahead of confirmed and correct information being shared with the community. I apologize for any confusion this unfortunate turn of events may have had in your understanding of this very positive step for our secondary instructional program.

The **framework** for the District's initiative for live streaming teacher-provided lessons at MPHS and NCRMS, for grades 6 through 12, beginning October 26, 2020, is as follows:

Note: Not every variable will be addressed in this communication

Rationale for live streaming of classroom lessons:

- (1) Allows the hybrid plan to stretch the curriculum to 5 days per week (as opposed to the current 2 days in-person and 1 day remote).
- (2) Would allow all current instructional plans (secondary and elementary) to have five days of curriculum each week.
- (3) At the secondary level, in the event the District needs to move to a fully virtual or fully in-person, transition for curriculum would be seamless

Secondary Live Streaming Schedule to be implemented October 26, 2020:

- (1) Monday: in-person teaching for Cohort 1; live stream virtually students in Cohort 2
- (2) Tuesday: in-person teaching for Cohort 1; live stream virtually students in Cohort 2
- (3) Wednesday: virtual teaching Cohort 1 and Cohort 2
- (4) Thursday: in-person teaching for Cohort 2; live stream virtually students in Cohort 1
- (5) Friday: in-person teaching for Cohort 2; live stream virtually students in Cohort 1

Note: As of now, there is no change to the current Wednesday virtual instructional day. The District will continue to evaluate the Wednesday virtual instructional day and may modify the mode of instruction in Phase III.

Live Streaming Practice:

- (1) Live streaming will be done through Google Classroom, on a period by period basis.
- (2) Students receiving the live streaming will view the SMARTBoard and hear the live teacher audio of the lesson. For the 2020-21 school year, camera access will be voluntary and at the discretion of the teacher.

Students:

- (1) Students receiving live streaming instruction are responsible for the material covered in the lesson and/or assigned activities.
- (2) Student attendance will be recorded for all students on the roster daily, period by period.
- (3) Students who are removed from the classroom setting for discipline reasons will not be permitted to participate in live streaming instruction.

Student misbehavior on the remote platform: The following information is the current language included in the 2020-21 Code of Conduct, and applies to live streaming:

Inappropriate student conduct while participating in virtual or remote learning includes:

- (1) Failing to comply with the reasonable directions of teachers, school administrators or other school employees in charge of students, or otherwise demonstrating disrespect
- (2) Any behavior that stops a teacher from teaching and students from learning
- (3) Threatening to use any weapon or violence upon any person
- (4) Defamation
- (5) Discrimination
- (6) Cyberbullying
- (7) Intimidation
- (8) Using vulgar or abusive language, cursing or swearing

Students engaging in misconduct may result in the teacher disconnecting the student immediately.

In addition, **the District considers appropriate student digital citizenship to include:**

- (1) Arrive online at the scheduled time.
- (2) Do their best to try to find a quiet place free from distractions whatever environment they are learning in.
- (3) Be prepared with all lesson materials.
- (4) Maintain respect in speaking, writing, and appearance.
- (5) Identify themselves clearly with their name on the screen. Unrecognizable and unidentifiable usernames are not acceptable.
- (6) Mute themselves when they enter a live session to limit background noise and distractions to others.
- (7) Use the chat feature when available to ask questions.
- (8) Keep video on during live sessions when comfortable.
- (9) Follow teacher instructions throughout the session.
- (10) Use the chat feature to message the teacher privately, unless otherwise directed by the teacher.
- (11) Students are prohibited from using the remote learning platform for any other purpose other than their intended use as directed by the teacher.
- (12) The use of headphones or earbuds while engaging with audio or video content is strongly encouraged. This will help them focus on learning and not be distracted.
- (13) The privacy and confidentiality of all participants is important. The following are prohibited during the live sessions, unless approved by the teacher: taking photos or screenshots; taking videos; altering content presented by the teacher; sharing, posting or otherwise distributing, in any matter either physically, or

electronically via, email, text or social media platform any session or content; sharing login information, links, ID numbers, passwords or invitations to live sessions with anyone.

(14) The standards of behavior for students will be enforced to ensure students will not: make inappropriate faces, gestures or comments; wear full facial covering masks, such as a Halloween masks; display inappropriate virtual background or profile picture; project or display an inappropriate image.

In cases of inappropriate student conduct, a teacher may stop the virtual feed during the lesson and will notify a building administrator as per the Code of Conduct noted above.

Please be patient with our staff as we move to implement this initiative at MPHS and NCRMS, for grades 6 through 12, beginning **October 26, 2020**. Over the next two weeks our faculty will have access to professional development from our technology integration specialist, computer lab assistant support, as well as access to their colleagues to share practices and learn more about the intricacies of live streaming practices.

As noted above, the District will continue to evaluate our instructional practices as we educate students during a national health crisis. As discussed at the September 30, 2020 Board of Education meeting, although face-to-face in-person instruction will always be the best mode of teaching, at this time the District is not willing to forgo safety protocols, such as social distancing, in order to return students to in-person instruction five days per week.

Should you have questions regarding live streaming, as always feel free to connect with your child's teacher and/or building administrative staff. Your anticipated cooperation during this transition is greatly appreciated.

Stay Informed ~ Stay Safe ~ Stay Positive.

Dr. Marianne F. Cartisano
Superintendent of Schools