

Miller Place Union Free School District

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Educational Services**
Sandra A. Wojnowski

Tuesday, May 19, 2020

Re: Real-Time Interaction (Between Students and Faculty)

Dear Miller Place School District Parents and Guardians,

I want to thank you for your patience and understanding as we worked through the many challenges associated with emergency remote distance learning. As we have all experienced, this is an entirely new learning environment and a major shift in student learning, teaching and parents participating in instruction with their child. As stated earlier in this process, distance learning is designed to be an extension of the classroom. It is not designed to be the classroom, which is what we are attempting to do during this national health crisis. Our goal is to improve each day and remain focused on providing our students the best opportunity for learning.

As school closures have been extended through the end of the 2019-20 school year, the Board of Education, Miller Place Teachers Association, Miller Place Administrators Association and District Administration have combined our efforts to develop a **Real-Time Interaction Plan** for our students in a distance learning platform. As we initiate this plan, faculty will be flexible in the mode they choose to begin this phase of interaction.

To begin this process:

1. This week faculty received professional development for Real-Time Interaction, as well as the expectations for this phase of our plan to be implemented.
2. Secondary teachers will conduct office hours for one hour between Monday and Thursday and one hour on Fridays each week. This will be scheduled by the individual teacher directly with their students.
3. Elementary teachers will conduct two hours of Real-Time Interaction between Monday and Friday each week. This will be scheduled by the individual teacher directly with their students/class. The introduction to Real-Time Interaction will be social-emotional learning (SEL) related.
4. Special education teachers, school psychologists, speech teachers, school counselors, and library media specialists will continue with their current distance learning procedures and schedules already established.
5. Special area teachers (art, music, physical education) at the elementary level will continue to utilize e-mail for office hours as we transition these content areas to Microsoft Teams at a later date.
6. Real-Time Interaction, of two hours per week, will begin the week of May 26, 2020.

Parents, please take this opportunity to remind your children that digital citizenship includes appropriate behaviors while participating in live on-line interactions between faculty and students. Students who exhibit inappropriate behaviors will be subject to appropriate progressive disciplinary action.

As with each phase of developing a plan for the first time, especially during these very unsettling times, we expect there may be the need for additional adjustments once this plan is initiated. Please continue to keep the lines of communication open between you and your child's teacher and always feel free to connect with a building principal if needed.

This new undertaking is the result of the efforts and coordination of teachers, administrators, and the Board of Education. We are sincerely appreciative of this continued partnership to support students in this new learning environment.

Please stay safe ~

Dr. Marianne F. Cartisano
Superintendent of Schools