

Subject: Principal's Community Message, 4/6/2020

Date: Monday, April 6, 2020 at 9:45:42 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Ellicott Mills Middle School

To: Jennifer Johnson



Ellicott Mills Middle School

Principal's Community Message April 6, 2020

Dear Ellicott Mills Families,

On April 20, 2020 we will begin our next phase of the distance learning model with middle school students, and I would like to share important information to help your family prepare. All students will need access to a technology device for approximately two hours each week. If your family is in need of a device and has not completed our [Student Technology Survey](#), please complete it out as soon as possible.

Our distance learning model will consist of two components, 1) 90 minutes to two hours of **learning activities** per course for students to complete independently, and 2) weekly **virtual class check-ins** via Google Meet.

Learning Activities

Beginning April 20, students will engage in learning activities that will take up to two hours each week per class to complete. Weekly assignments will be posted each Monday by 9:00 a.m. and will be due on Friday by 10:00 a.m.

Virtual Class Check-ins

Regular class check-ins will follow the schedule below. Each class will have one meeting time. Your child's ***teacher will determine which of the two times will be the check-in time for the class period*** and communicate the schedule with families and students via Canvas. The time teachers select will remain constant throughout the school closure.

Monday, April 20

- Period 4/4A Google Meet Check-In: 1:00-1:45 p.m. OR 2:00-2:45 p.m.

Tuesday, April 21

- Period 1/1A Google Meet Check-in: 8:00-8:45 a.m. OR 9:00-9:45 a.m.
- Period 5/5A Google Meet Check-in: 1:00-1:45 p.m. OR 2:00-2:45 p.m.

Wednesday, April 22

- Period 2/2A Google Meet Check-in: 8:00-8:45 a.m. OR 9:00-9:45 a.m.
- Period 6/6A Google Meet Check-in: 1:00-1:45 p.m. OR 2:00-2:45 p.m.

Thursday, April 23

- Period 3/3A Google Meet Check-in: 8:00-8:45 a.m. OR 9:00-9:45 a.m.
- Period 7/7A Google Meet Check-in: 1:00-1:45 p.m. OR 2:00-2:45 p.m.

A-day/B-day classes will follow a weekly rotation. Assuming the state-mandated closure is extended beyond April 24:

- April 20-24: A-day classes will be assigned work and have check-ins
- April 27-May 1: B-day classes will be assigned work and have check-ins

The A/B schedule will continue to rotate each week for as long as we are engaged in distance learning.

On Tuesday, April 14, teachers will send a Canvas post that will include a short optional activity for students to complete to re-engage in learning. On Wednesday, April 15, teachers will post a short orientation video that will explain the weekly routine including the expectations for assignments, the dates and times for the weekly virtual class check-ins, and the norms for engaging in check-ins.

The distance learning model of teaching and learning is new for all of us. I appreciate your understanding as we adapt to this new way of engaging staff, students, and families. Please do not hesitate to email me with any questions.

Thank you,

Peter Gaylord
Principal, EMMS

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