



MOUNTAIN BROOK
SCHOOLS

September 28, 2011

Dear Parents,

As you know, Mountain Brook Schools missed one day of school due to inclement weather in September. Based on the Board-adopted school calendar for 2011-2012, the make-up day would be May 29th, which is after Memorial Day.

Yesterday the Board of Education formally approved a recommendation that will permit students to make up this weather day by way of an eSchool day. Last year we had two successful eSchool days, according to the survey data. An eSchool day is a day in which students receive their instruction electronically. This day will require instruction and work at home, but will not require physical attendance in school buildings. This eSchool day will 1) help our system develop effective and creative ways to promote instruction beyond the classroom walls, 2) allow the day to be made up in the first semester rather than adding a day to a completed school year, and 3) allow the school year to be completed by Memorial Day which is one of the goals concerning our school calendar.

The Board has declared that this eSchool day will officially be in session on Monday, October 17, 2011. This day has already been designed as a professional development day for our staff and the vast majority of our staff will be in training all day. We are aware that many of you have planned activities due to the fact that this day was not designated as a potential make-up day. Therefore, students will not attend school on that day; rather, they will have access to online instruction by way of teacher website, grade level or department website, or teacher Moodle site. Students will then have until October 24th to complete the instructional plans provided by their teachers for the eSchool day. Your child's teachers will be communicating with you and/or your child in greater detail as the eSchool day draws near.

We know from surveys that 98% of our students have access to the Internet at home. In addition, the Emmett O'Neil Library provides computer access for students until 9:00 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, and from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on weekends. However, if Internet accessibility is a concern for your child, please contact your child's teacher for other arrangements. Please know that we will accommodate families with specific needs.

Our teachers are preparing meaningful and engaging work for our students in order to fulfill the requirements of these eSchool days. This work should be completed with minimal help from parents, although younger students may need some guidance. After the completion of the eSchool day, we will invite you and your child to participate in a survey that will assist us in evaluating the effectiveness of this day. If you have any questions about your child's eSchool day, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher, principal, or go to our website at www.mtnbrook.k12.al.us and click on eSchool.

Sincerely,



Dicky Barlow

effective · challenging · engaging