

March 13, 2020

MBS Parents,

Per Gov. Kay Ivey's COVID-19 state of emergency declaration Friday evening, Mountain Brook Schools will close from Thursday, March 19, through Friday, April 3. Those days will not need to be made up due to the state of emergency declaration. In the interest of student/employee health and safety, the district also has decided to transition exclusively to E-learning from Monday, March 16, through Wednesday, March 18. All extracurricular activities, athletics, and extended day programs are canceled from March 16 to April 3 as well.

The state has set Monday, April 6, as a target reopening date for schools, but that could change based on the progression of the COVID-19 outbreak. Mountain Brook Schools will stay in close contact with our state and local health agencies, State Department of Education, and local health experts. We will follow their guidance and pass along new information as it becomes available.

Although Monday will undoubtedly be one of transition for our students, parents, and faculty, we are doing all we can to make the transition to E-learning as smooth as possible. Elementary parents can stop by their child's school from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. to check out a Chromebook from their child's teacher. A parent's signature is required for all Chromebook checkouts. Students in grades 7-12 can stop by the junior high or high school at that time as well to pick up any items they might need. Also, all schools invite parents to pick up any daily medication needed by your child that is housed in the nurse's office at your respective school.

E-learning differentiates itself from an E-day in that the planning and instructional design is developed with a broader, long-term approach. Assignments are intentionally designed to be completed over an extended period of time, and group conferencing capabilities are critical for many subjects and classes. Students will access online instruction using Google Classroom (Grades K-4) and CANVAS (Grades 5-12). We are exceptionally confident in our faculty's ability to continue providing an effective, challenging, and engaging education for every one of our students in our e-learning format.

While your children remain at home, we encourage you to follow the advice of government agencies and medical professionals. We have communicated with Dr. Kimberlin, a professor of pediatrics and co-director of the division of pediatric infectious diseases at UAB, throughout the week in regard to COVID-19. He recommends that you and your family avoid mass gatherings of more than 250 people, practice social distancing, wash your hands at least once hourly, and avoid physical contact with others. We want you to stay well.

During the closure, Mountain Brook Schools will be thoroughly cleaning our campuses to ensure they are ready to accommodate our students, faculty, and staff. We will be in further contact with you soon. We know the past few days have been difficult for everyone in our community and are sensitive to the unique challenges faced by every family. Thank you for your flexibility, patience, and courage as we navigate this unprecedented situation.

Sincerely,

Dicky Barlow
Superintendent
Mountain Brook Schools

