



MULLICA TOWNSHIP MIDDLE SCHOOL



OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL

Home of the Coyotes

Mrs. Maris Lynn, Principal

#WeAreMullica

March 30, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

First, I wish to commend and thank you for the tremendous support you have given to your children as they embarked on a brand new educational journey. This change has been challenging for everyone and we are all doing the best we can under unusually challenging circumstances. What began as a relatively short potential school closure, rapidly became a closure of indefinite duration. We all hope to return to normal as soon as possible, but we must make the most of our current reality and put the needs of our children first. Several well-known factors positively contribute to the success and wellbeing of children. Among these are stability, acceptance, encouragement, and love. In the interest of supporting our students while they are learning remotely, we are recommending the expectations outlined in this document.

Starting on Tuesday, March 31, the Mullica Township Middle School will follow a set schedule for class meetings and teacher office hours. This will allow students to have set times to meet with their teachers and classmates. Further, this allows classmates to interact and participate in school in a more normal environment. The classes they attend virtually will have the same roster as the classes they attend while at school. This schedule promotes stability and provides a platform for teachers to encourage students while they are at home. Suggested guidelines for time students can be expected to spend on schoolwork have been outlined for each subject and grade level.

On the following pages, you will find additional information that will assist you in supporting your child while they participate in remote learning. It is important that we are all patient with our children and with ourselves during this time. As we gain additional experience in Remote Teaching and Learning and receive additional guidance from the Department of Education, revisions will be made and communicated to families. We all look forward to returning to our usual routines. Please communicate with your child's teachers, counselors, and myself so that we may provide support to you and your child.

I wish you and your family good health.

Respectfully,

Maris Lynn
Principal

Temporary Schedule for Remote Learning

Students will receive communication from their teachers telling them what period each class will meet.

	Start	End
Period 1	09:00	09:30
Period 2	09:45	10:15
Period 3	10:30	11:00
Period 4	11:15	11:45
Lunch/Recess	12:00	01:00
Office Hours	01:00	03:15

Suggested Time Allotments for Subjects:

Grade	ELA	Social Studies	Science	Math	Total Daily	Total Weekly
Fifth	40	20	30	30	120 Mins	10 hours
Sixth	40	20	30	40	130 Mins	10 hours 50 Minutes
Seventh	40	25	30	40	135 Mins	11 hours 25 Minutes
Eighth	40	30	40	40	150 Mins	12 hours 50 Minutes
Big History		30				

What if I am concerned about screen time?

Screen time is a significant concern for our students while learning remotely. We do not want students to spend uninterrupted hours in front of a computer screen. At school, we transition from one activity to the next several times throughout a class period. During the 15 minute breaks between classes, students should step away from their devices and engage in an activity that they enjoy. We recommend that this be a brain break that allows the student to return to learning ready and rested. Physical activity, reading for pleasure, listening to music, talking to a friend, and coloring are good examples of brain breaks.

How long should my child work on assignments? What if my child becomes frustrated?

Two of the greatest challenges we are facing while teaching and learning remotely are that every child needs something slightly different for success and that students take differing amounts of time to complete assignments. We are recommending that students spend the time outlined in the included table for each subject on a weekly basis. You, as parents and guardians, are empowered and encouraged to monitor your child's frustration level and curtail an assignment if your child has reached their limit. At that point stop working on the assignment and communicate with the teacher to let them know what is happening at home. We are here to help both the students and parents. Additionally, if your child has met the time recommendation for the subject while working diligently, they can be done. Again, you will want to communicate this with the teacher. Students who would like, or need, additional support are invited to use office hours to communicate and work in small groups or one on one with teachers. Please contact our school counselors if your child is experiencing frustration or if you are concerned about their emotional and/or mental health.

What should students be doing and where are they doing it?

All core content area teachers have Google Classrooms that are used to provide instruction to our students. Students should be logging into their classrooms daily and checking the assignments. Initially, paper copies of assignments were provided to students in addition to having a digital platform for learning. Going forward, all learning materials will be provided digitally. Parents should ask to see what their children are working on in their Google Classrooms. Parents are able to see assignments and monitor their child's progress. Additionally, parents can check that assignments have been collected in PowerSchool. Please reach out to individual teachers with questions and concerns.

What if I do not have internet access in my home?

Students who do not have internet access in their homes will be provided with paper-based alternatives to online instruction. Comcast Xfinity offers free or low-cost internet to families who qualify. Please contact the middle school office for assistance with obtaining paper packets and for support in acquiring internet access.

How is Remote Learning being graded?

Remote learning is new to both teachers and students. While we all become acclimated to learning digitally, teachers are looking for students to be putting forth their best independent effort on assignments. In PowerSchool, you will see that assignments are either collected, incomplete, or missing. This is to allow students and parents to know if assignments are being completed as expected, if assignments need revision or additional work to be complete, or if assignments have not been completed as scheduled. Traditional grades are not being assigned at this time. All students should be encouraged to do their best work and commended for the work they are completing.

Additional Insight into Teaching and Learning:

During a class period at school, teachers and students engage in a variety of different activities. The most basic components of a lesson are introducing the lesson (preparing the student for what will be taught), direct instruction (teaching/learning the lesson), guided practice (using the learned skill together), independent practice (applying the skill with limited or no support) and assessment (determining if the student has successfully learned what was taught). An important part of learning is interaction with peers and teachers. Following a schedule will facilitate this. Introducing new concepts, direct instruction, and guided practice can occur in front of a screen while interacting with the teacher. Independent practice can occur away from the screen. Finally, assessment will be a joint effort between teachers and parents. We will work together to determine what the students have learned and to identify areas that require additional support.

How can I help my child at home?

Support your child in their learning by:

- Encouraging adherence to all virtual/remote learning assignments.
- Designating a place where your child can work independently and with few distractions.
- Asking your child about his/her assignments to further engage them in the learning.
- Checking with your child to ensure assignments are completed by due dates.
- Reminding your child to email his/her teacher if they have any questions or need support in their learning.
- Emailing teachers with any questions that you may have.
- Regularly checking the district website for important information and updates
<https://www.mullicschools.com/>

Additional Resources for Families:

- Contact Information
 - Middle School Office 609-561-3868, Ext 143 or lrabush@mullicschools.com
 - Mr. Maher, Middle School Counselor, mmaher@mullicschools.com
 - Mrs. Becker, School Social Worker, lbecker@mullicschools.com
 - Mrs. Scioli, School Psychologist, kscioli@mullicschools.com
 - Staff contact information, [Staff Contact List](#)
- Technology:
 - Chromebook repair requests must be completed through the PowerSchool parent portal. Once in PowerSchool, select “Ecollect Forms”, then “Chromebook Repair request”. Mr. Irwin will contact you to complete the repair.
- Nutrition:
 - Mullica Township Schools’ food service provider, NutriServe, is prepared to serve meals to students in need, regardless of their situation. If you would like breakfast and/or lunch for your child(ren), you may order meals by contacting our Food Service Director, Kyle DiVito, via phone or email - (609) 561-3868 ext. 247 or mts@nsfm.com.
 - [Atlantic County Food Bank Resources](#)