



July 14, 2020

Dear Mission Heights Families,

As we approach the beginning of the school year, I know many of you have questions and concerns. In my last letter, I shared that we would be starting as planned on **Friday, July 31st**, but would do so using remote learning due to Governor Ducey's mandated order of not having students on campus until August 17th. Again, it is our goal to start educating our students without delay. Because of this change, it has also affected how we are handling Orientation. Therefore, this is the first question I wish to address.

Here is how our new Virtual Orientation process will go:

1. **Drive Through #1:** Drive by the East side of the school building (bus loading and unloading zone) on either **Friday, July 24th**, or **Monday, July 27th, between 5-7 p.m.** to pick up the student's agenda and a folder with the **2020-2021 Orientation Packet Checklist**.
2. Go home and pull out the packet to review together (student and parent/guardian).
3. Read the introduction of our Virtual Orientation Packet.
4. Find the link to our Virtual Orientation Video on the front page; as well, at any point you can go to our website and look under our "Orientation" section for all of this information.
5. As you watch, follow along in the Orientation Packet Checklist. All should be in order. **Please do not skip ahead!** Fill out what is applicable to you and put those documents on the right side of your folder to return back to MHP. Everything included in this packet is what you would receive at our on-campus Orientation. If you have questions regarding any of these documents, please call our front office for support.
6. **Drive Through #2:** Drive by the East side of the school building again on either **Tuesday, July 28th** or **Wednesday July 29th, between 5-7 p.m.** to return the paperwork. This will also be an opportunity for the students who need one to pick up a chromebook and charger, so they are ready to start remote learning on Friday, July 31st!

We know this is not the easiest solution, but every day we are learning to rework and revamp our usual and change it to something new, which really fits in with our school's theme this year of **TRANSFORM YOUR NOW!!!!** I am committed to grow with this motto in the year ahead, and I challenge all stakeholders at MHP to consider the same. How can we work through the negative, the challenges, and the change, and transform our NOW at MHP for the better?

The second question I wish to address is about Phantom First Day. We are postponing it at this time. We wish to do our team building time with Freshmen when they can join us safely on campus. We hope to hold this right before our school opens up to students again.

The third question I am hearing regularly is what happens after August 17th? At this time, my answer is still that it is contingent upon what the Governor says; as well, it depends on the risk of COVID in our state at the time and what CDC guidelines are stating. As I have shared before, our goal is to get kids on this campus. I cannot wait to see their faces, to walk alongside them in the hallways, and to see them learning in our classrooms.

Here is what you can expect when school reopens in person for our Fall 2020 school year.

- Our campus and classrooms have been reconfigured to allow for social distancing. According to current CDC guidelines, we can safely fit about 16 kids per classroom at a time.
- Virtual learning has evolved from last spring's emergency workaround to a permanent, robust, engaging option.

- Heightened campus cleaning, handwashing protocols, and hand sanitation stations are in place throughout the campus.
- We have also reworked busing, creating new routes and schedules that allow for social distancing.
- A comfortable, relaxed environment where kids can still be kids.

We know there are a wide variety of needs and concerns as we all navigate the new 'Now' we are facing. That is why we have created new, flexible learning options to better serve the needs of our students and families. As you will see from the phases below, our choices maximize safety and in-person connection with teachers, whether here on campus or learning virtually.

#### **MHP's Learning Choices:**

- **Remote Learning is an option ALL YEAR** for those who are concerned to return to school.
- **Phase 0 Learning** (State Emergency): Full Remote Learning until state opens again.
- **Phase 1 Learning** (COVID RISK HIGH): For those ready to return to campus, remote learning will take place with optional support one day a week for each grade level and Fridays serving as a day for extra tutoring on campus.
- **Phase 2 Learning** (COVID RISK MODERATE): Remote Learning with optional support two days a week for each grade level and Fridays serving as a day for extra tutoring on campus.
- **Phase 3 Learning** (COVID RISK LOW): In-class learning for all students utilizing our shortened Friday-day schedule all days of the week.
- **Phase 4 Learning** (COVID RISK GONE): **All students on campus with normal (pre-covid) schedule!!!!**

Our learning choices prioritize safety AND success for every student. These options allow us to begin this school year confidently, knowing that as COVID-19 guidance changes, we have flexibility in place that allows us to adapt and overcome whatever challenges we may face. We WILL **transform our now** to be at its very best.

Now, more than ever, our students deserve learning choices that redefine what is possible, no matter what life brings. With expanded and flexible on-campus and remote options to meet the needs of our families, this school year promises to be better than ever. We can't wait to welcome you back!

In this together,

Amanda Mace  
School Leader