

MT. PLEASANT BLYTHEDALE
UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
Valhalla, NY



CONTINUITY
OF
LEARNING
PLAN
GUIDE FOR PARENTS
AND STUDENTS

UPDATED JULY 31, 2020

This document will be updated regularly as new information is available. Changes will be noted.

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Note: Due to the ever changing nature of our current environment, we anticipate changes to this document. We will continue to update this guide, and make notations of these updates for as long as our students are participating in distance learning to maintain continuity of learning. We will update the date on the cover page to alert you to changes. Significant changes will also be shared via e-mail and/or website posts.

Contacts & Communication

District Communication

The district will continue to update the community through our notifications systems of emails, auto-calls, and posting to the district website: <https://www.mpbschools.org>. The principal will communicate building-specific information, and teachers will update families with class-specific information. For general questions about our Continuity of Learning Plan, please contact Griselda Reyes; Principal at greyes@mpbschools.org

Special Education and Pupil Personnel Services

Questions about Special Education and other PPS Services should be directed to:

- Dr. Emily Hersh - Superintendent – ehersh@mpbschools.org
- Amelia Carpanzano – CSE Chairperson (K-12) – acarpanzano@mpbschools.org
- Lauren Buckridge- CSE Chairperson (Early Childhood P-2) – lbuckridge@mpbschools.org

Teacher Communication

The best way to reach teachers and administrators during an extended closure is **by e-mail**.

Grade	Teacher		Email Contact
Pre-School	Michelle	Gaglio	mgaglio@mpbschools.org
	Elise	Quirindongo	equirindongo@mpbschools.org
Pre-K/K	Lauren	Buckridge	lbuckridge@mpbschools.org
K/1	Katherine	Turenchalk	Kturenchalk@mpbschools.org
K/1	Stephen	Slansky	sslansky@mpbschools.org
K/1	Kendra	Varbero	Kvarbero@mpbschools.org
1	Jennifer	DelBianco	jdelbianco@mpbschools.org
2	Christine	Hamilton	chamilton@mpbschools.org
3	TBD	TBD	TBD
4	Corryn	Morris	cmorris@mpbschools.org
5	Jodi	Feldman	jfeldman@mpbschools.org
6	Lisa	Ryan	lryan@mpbschools.org
Secondary Math	Matt	Wenz	mwenz@mpbschools.org
Secondary Science	Nadiesta	Sanchez	nsanchez@mpbschools.org
Secondary English	Brianna	Walter	bwalter@mpbschools.org
Social Studies	Robert	Troy	rtroy@mpbschools.org
Health	Michelle	Dillmann	mdillmann@mpbschools.org
Art	Sharon	McCann	smccann@mpbschools.org
Music	Corey	Moeller	cmoeller@mpbschools.org
School Counselor	Kate	Garcia	Kgarcia@mpbschools.org

Technology Support

- If parents/students have trouble connecting, logging-in or accessing a required program, please email your child's teacher first and include; your child's name, phone number, and details of issue.
- If you continue to experience difficulties, please contact Amanda Akdemir, aakdemir@mpbschools.org, Instructional Technology teacher and include: your child's name, phone number, and details of issue.
- We understand that not all students have the same level of access to technology at home. Please contact your child's teacher immediately if you have concerns so that we can provide alternative solutions.

Introduction to Continuity of Learning

As we transition to this alternative way of learning, we will do our best to support and engage our students through meaningful and thoughtful learning experiences. With our investment in technology, professional learning, and curriculum development, we are well-positioned to engage in off-site learning experiences with our students. With some practice, feedback, adjustments along the way, and parental support, we are confident that we can design increasingly powerful learning activities.

To the extent possible, we will emphasize technology platforms that are familiar to students. Learning objectives will be communicated to students with each activity. Content and skills will be reinforced in a variety of ways. Teachers will track student progress to ensure participation and check-in with students and parents. We will provide age-appropriate ways for students to interact with their teacher. Teachers will continue to assess student progress and provide timely feedback. Administrators and counselors will continue to support our families. Although we have transitioned to a virtual world, we will do our best to continue to provide layers of support and connectivity.

*Adjustments may be needed along the way. Moving forward we will continue to discuss comprehensive synchronous (real-time) digital teaching and learning as needed or directed by SED.

Essential Questions

We have used the following three questions to guide continuity of learning with our teachers and leaders. As your teacher shares the specifics of their plan with you, please know that these questions were used as a framework to develop the essential parts of our Continuity of Learning plan.

- How will students access instructional plans and materials?
- How will students receive assignments, submit work and get feedback?
- How will students interact with their teacher(s)?

Effective Practices

The fundamentals of teaching and learning hold true in our classrooms as well as in an off-site environment. We will make every effort to hold true to these fundamentals.

- Objectives will be clearly communicated to students.
- Content and skills will be reinforced in a variety of ways.
- Students will have opportunities to interact with their teacher via District Platform.
- Feedback will be provided to students and parents via District Platform or email.

Supporting Off-Site Learning at Home

Parents can support in the following ways:

- Set up a daily family routine, including healthy eating and sleeping habits; create a daily schedule that includes quiet work time, physical activity and family time.
- Talk each day with your child about his/her work and promote literacy by reading to your child and encouraging him/her to read; both independently and with you.
- Remember flexibility and balance are key during these unprecedented times.

Schedule

Elementary: (Pre-K- 6)

Teachers are sending daily instruction to parents with expectations. Synchronous and asynchronous instruction is being provided to all students. Teachers have included:

- Worksheets, videos, assignments, educational website links and associated materials will be available and posted for students on a daily basis.
- Pre -K-6 teachers are providing continuity of learning in the following subjects: reading, writing, and math. Teachers will integrate social studies and science into reading and writing.
- Teachers will respond to students' questions and provide feedback on student work submissions.
- Teachers will ensure contact with all students on a regular basis. When continuity is not maintained, teachers will reach out to the school counselor, then principal.
- There will be video conferencing with teachers, staff and students to maintain communication and connection.

Secondary: (7-12)

Teachers are sending daily instruction to parents with expectations. Synchronous and asynchronous instruction is being provided to all students. Teachers have included:

- Worksheets, videos, assignments, and associated materials should be available and posted for students on a daily basis at the beginning of the day.
- 7-12 classroom teachers will post lessons per course at the secondary level.
- Teachers will respond to students' questions and provide feedback on student work submissions.
- Teachers will ensure contact with all students on a regular basis. When continuity is not maintained, teachers will reach out to the school counselor, then principal.
- There will be video conferencing with teachers, staff and students to maintain communication and connection.

The ARTS

Art and music will post lessons and assignments as follows:

Teachers are providing instructional ideas and lessons via District Platform and video conferencing to parents.

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT

- Teachers will participate in weekly grade level meetings via video conferencing to maintain growth and planning towards academic goals and curriculum.
- Teachers are participating in various professional development sessions offered through outside agencies to enhance pedagogical strategies.
- Teachers will provide instruction that is differentiated to meet the needs of all students.

Technology Access & Usage

Access to and use of technology is an important part of maintaining continuity of learning. Although an incredible tool for learning and connection, technology use does not come without significant concerns related to security, privacy, appropriate use and more. We will need your help to ensure that our students maximize the positive impact of technology use in their lives while minimizing the potential negative consequences. There are many online resources which can help you strike this balance in your home as we strive to do the same each day while students were in our classrooms.

The amount of time students spent on screens weighs heavily in our decisions related to the recommended length of each instructional module provided. Our goal is to balance the importance of delivering appropriate instruction without excessive screen-time. Adjustments to these guidelines will be made as we receive feedback from students, parents and teachers.

Supported Technology Platforms

Teachers have been encouraged to use a variety of material to review content and deliver new instructional material. The list below, although not exhaustive, contains district approved and commonly used technology tools.

Online Resources		
Tool/Website	Description	Subscription
BrainPOP, BrainPOP Jr., BrainPOP ELL https://www.brainpop.com/	A trusted learning resource supporting core and supplemental subjects, reaching millions of learners worldwide.	24/7 Student Access Subscription and temporary unlimited District Access with teacher and student accounts
ClassDojo https://www.classdojo.com/	Communication platform for students and families. Students can showcase and share their learning with portfolios. Engage and communicate easily with parents.	Free
IXL Math & ELA https://www.ixl.com/	Comprehensive K-12 curriculum with personalized guidance and real time diagnostics and analytics.	School Subscription
Nearpod https://nearpod.com/	Instructional platform that merges formative assessment and dynamic media for collaborative learning experiences.	Free basic account with limited storage
Kahoot https://kahoot.com/schools-u/	Engage students in learning when school is out and stay on track with curriculum while instructing online.	Free basic account Use basic features to create, play, and host games outside of the classroom and in-class.
SMART Online Learning Suite https://suite.smarttech-prod.com/login	Cloud based lesson library and lesson delivery platform with game-based activities and shared workspaces.	SLS Online is included alongside SMART Notebook software in the SMART Learning Suite software bundle.
Reading A-Z, Writing A-Z, Raz-Kids https://www.learninga-z.com/	Education technology company dedicated to expanding literacy through thoughtfully designed resources.	School Subscription and Free Virtual Resources for Educators for Rest of School Year

<p>edHelper https://www.edhelper.com/</p>	<p>Teacher-developed resources to enhance every child's skills. Thousands of standards-based, teacher tested activities and worksheets to bolster every child's learning.</p>	<p>School Subscription</p>
<p>Enchanted Learning https://www.enchantedlearning.com/</p>	<p>Children's educational websites designed to capture the imagination while maximizing creativity, learning, and enjoyment.</p>	<p>School Subscription</p>
<p>Flocabulary https://www.flocabulary.com/</p>	<p>Hip-hop videos and creativity tools give teachers new ways to captivate students while engaging them in academically rigorous content.</p>	<p>Shared teacher account</p>
<p>Modern Chalkboard https://modernchalkboard.com/</p>	<p>Custom-designed files offer interactive and engaging lessons in mathematics, social studies, science, spelling and grammar, and more!</p>	<p>Shared teacher account</p>
<p>Scholastic Classroom Magazines https://classroommagazines.scholastic.com/</p>	<p>Virtual learning resources for students in grades PreK-9+.</p>	<p>School Subscription to <i>Let's Find Out, News, and Super Science</i></p>
<p>Mystery Science https://mysteryscience.com/</p>	<p>NGSS-aligned and Common Core Science Curriculum with short videos and discussion questions.</p>	<p>Free</p>
<p>Starfall https://www.starfall.com/h/</p>	<p>Publicly supported nonprofit organization with free and low-cost experiences whereby children can successfully learn through exploration.</p>	<p>School Subscription, but free account has limited access</p>
<p>International Children's Library http://en.childrenslibrary.org/</p>	<p>Nonprofit digital library of children's books from around the world.</p>	<p>Free</p>

<p>SORA eBooks https://soraapp.com/welcome</p>	<p>Modern student reading experience. Empowers students to discover and enjoy ebooks and audiobooks for both leisure and class-assigned reading.</p>	<p>School Account</p>
<p>Khan Academy https://www.khanacademy.org/</p>	<p>Nonprofit with the mission to provide a free, world-class education for anyone, anywhere.</p>	<p>Free</p>
<p>Google Drive, Docs, Slides, Forms https://www.google.com/drive/</p>	<p>Store, share, and access your files from any device.</p>	<p>Free class accounts with 15GB storage</p>
<p>Prodigy https://www.prodigygame.com/</p>	<p>Engaging, curriculum-aligned math platform for students, teachers, and admins.</p>	<p>Free</p>
<p>SplashMath https://www.splashlearn.com/</p>	<p>Personalized learning with interactive games and rewards. Includes real-time progress dashboard that pinpoints trouble spots.</p>	<p>Free</p>

The safety, security and privacy of our students and their data is a top priority. Many web-based platforms are not compliant with educational privacy requirements. Teachers have been instructed that any platform which collects student information must be approved by the district so we may ensure adherence to strict student data privacy requirements.

Student Expectations

Teachers and students should follow these guidelines to ensure productive, meaningful experiences:

- Practice Social Distancing.** The reason we have turned to a blended approach to learning is to adhere to the guidance of our State Leaders; practicing social distancing, in order to prevent the spread of the virus.
- Commitment to Learning:** Schedule time each day dedicated to continuing learning. Log onto our district platform each day, read your teachers assignments, try the learning experiences, and follow up with your teacher to share what you’ve learned, discovered, and/or questions that you may have.

Staff Availability

We recognize that synchronous (real time) opportunities for student-teacher interaction are an important part of the teaching and learning process. We also realize the complexity of this in the

blended environment. All educators will be available and will identify how they will provide daily, timely and through feedback. Each teacher will communicate with students their specific availability during the school day, providing and posting an announced opportunity each day for students who need direct instruction.

Parents or caregivers should monitor progress balancing play, breaks, snacks, and work. In addition to the assigned work, we encourage students to continue to read, journal and play outdoors. We encourage parents to use “Extension Activities”; games, outdoor play, cooking, to engage your children.

Attendance

Student attendance will be marked through the same process as when schools are open for those students participating in IN-PERSON services. Those students participating in only Distance Learning, will be accounted for via the District’s Virtual platform.

Grading

Teachers will track student progress and check-in with students who are struggling or non-participatory. After an extended period of non-participation, the school guidance counselor and/or a building administrator will reach out to families to determine if additional support is needed. Intentional non-participation could be reflected on a student’s report card.

Standardized Assessments

The district will comply with guidance from NYSED.

Special Education Services

The district is working to ensure that every student with disabilities have equal access to the same opportunities as students without disabilities, including the provision of a free appropriate public education. To the greatest extent possible, students with IEPs will receive supports and services that will address their individual identified needs and track their progress toward achieving their IEP goals. Please understand that our exceptional circumstances may affect how a particular service is provided.

Collaboration and communication is strongly recommended between the classroom teacher and parents to support the needs of students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs).

CSE/CPSE meetings

We will be using a virtual platform for CSE/CPSE meetings. This platform will provide the opportunity for you to connect. You will be receiving an email and/or phone call from the special education office that will include a time for you to connect to the meeting on the scheduled date and time. If you have any questions, please contact Amelia Carpanzano acarpanzano@mpbschools.org or (914) 424-5013.

Support Services

School Counselor

Our School Counselor will maintain connectivity with students during this time. The counselor will attend to course planning, transitional planning, post-secondary admissions processes and support students and families remotely as needed. Please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's school counselor, Kate Garcia, kgarcia@mpbschools.org or (914) 598-3129 if you have questions or if your child needs additional support. Resources can be found on our website https://www.mpbschools.org/classes/30858/guidance_department/home

Teacher Aides

Teacher aides will:

- Support classroom teachers in the Continuity of Learning process as needed.
- Will participate in communication meetings to discuss their learning.
- Will engage in professional development.