

Frequently Asked Questions During the School Closure As of April 6, 2020

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Staffing

Will employees be paid during the closure?

All employees will be paid during the shutdown including hourly employees such as tutors, bus drivers and cafeteria staff. It is important that we support our incredible staff while we are out of school.

Are the custodians working?

On Monday, March 16, the custodians will begin a deep cleaning of all of the schools. They will work throughout the week until that process is complete. Then, they will work on an on-call basis until we return to school.

How do I reach someone while the schools are closed?

All of the administrators are continually available. Our school extensions will forward voice mail to our email accounts. Email is an excellent way to reach us. Teachers will periodically check email on Monday through Friday as they begin to interact via the virtual learning activities that begin on Monday, March 16.

Building Access

Are the buildings open?

All buildings were formally closed at 4 p.m. on Friday, March 13. No access is allowed to anyone with the exception of the TV studio at CCHS and the CCHS kitchen to a small number of kitchen staff who are preparing food for those in need. Ripley is also completely closed so there is no one at the central office, preschool or Concord Children's Center.

Can I pick up things I left at school?

The building are closed. Please email your principal about whatever you need and we'll see if we can get it for you.

What will happen to MCAS testing?

Per calls with the Commissioner of Education, requests for extensions or waivers are being submitted to the Massachusetts and federal legislators. The testing plan depends on our date of return. We will provide updates as we have them from the state who has submitted a waiver to the legislators.

Special Education

Will IEP services or compensatory services be provided?

Since we are not operating during this time, we will not be providing IEP services. During a shutdown of all educational delivery, we are not required to provide compensatory services. We do plan to offer informal support to students through the learning activities and communication from the special education staff. Please email us if you or your child has specific needs. This federal documents provides an overview of special education during school closures:

https://www2.ed.gov/policy/speced/guid/idea/memosdcltrs/qa-covid-19-03-12-2020.pdf?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term

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Special educators will communicate with general educators as to the planned activities and materials. Teachers will support students and accommodate and modify material in order to ensure children with IEP's can access the curriculum as outlined in their goals. Special education services as typically provided are not possible in this environment. At least a weekly check-in with students (or parents of young children) will allow for ongoing monitoring.

Will IEP meetings still be held?

The state asked that we hold IEP meetings virtually. Testing of students is more challenging and may lead to delays in initial and reevaluation meetings. Please contact your child's special education case manager/teacher. The Director of Student Services, Ruth Grube, will provide direction.

Supports

How can I help families in need in Boston, Carlisle, and Concord?

As you saw, we are providing food to families in need every weekday morning throughout the shutdown. We welcome financial donations. Here is the link to contribute:

<https://www.concordps.org/food-and-nutrition-services/>

What types of supports are available?

In addition to the provision of food, we maintain our focus on student mental health. If your child is need of support, please reach out to a counselor via email. Resources are also found on this page of the district website: <https://www.concordps.org/superintendent/mental-health/>

There is no doubt that these uncertain times create anxiety and may require additional support.

Can elementary school families borrow laptops?

Elementary families in need should contact their building principal.

Why can we not use the food pantry for food relief?

The local pantry, Open Pantry, is open for drive thru pickups.. Schools are meant to provide food to students on free and reduced lunch during the school year even when emergencies close the schools. We are grateful that we have the resources to provide for everyone in need in the community during this emergency.

Calendar

When will school reopen?

We simply do not know. The simple answer is when it is safe for everyone to return. The closure is currently planned at least until Monday, May 4. There are many indications that it could be longer. Regular updates will be provided through Dr. Hunter's notices to the community.

When is the last day of school?

In an unprecedented decision, the state is not requiring 180 days of school attendance this year. We must make up 5 days we are closed and the rest are forgiven. That means, the last day of school in June is June 19, 2020.

Will April break be cancelled?

No, April break will be as scheduled from April 20-24.

How will school continue if there is an outbreak when we come back?

The goal is to return only when we think we are past that point. We will work with local experts and officials while following state directives. We all dread the thought of returning only to have to leave again.

CCHS Specific

How will this impact the college process for high school juniors?

The goal is that you stay on track. We realize college visits, SATs, etc. are not happening as planned. Please email your guidance counselor who can help you with specific questions.

Will Q3 be pass/fail at CCHS?

We have not determined that until we have more information on the date of return to school.

What about Advanced Placement tests?

The College Board posted a coronavirus page to provide updates found here: [AP Updates for Schools Impacted by Coronavirus](#) Everything we know to date is coming from this source.

What will happen to Q5 at CCHS?

It depends on how the school closure plays out. We have not made any decisions.

What will happen to the high school spring sports season? Will we have to miss the meets that are cancelled?

We depend on MIAA guidance as to the plans for high school sports. As of right now, the season is delayed until May.. Please check the MIAA web page for updates:

<http://www.miaa.net/miaa/home>

Will high school seniors have to stay in school for the same time as everyone else?

It could depend on how this all plays out. As of right now, we would stick with the original calendar. We will keep everyone posted.

What is going to happen with graduation at CCHS?

We will have to evaluate the calendar as we know more. We have not made any changes to the original plan as of right now.

Will we have prom at CCHS?

We are hopeful that we will have the prom. It depends on the status of the spread of the disease and impact on our ability to have large group events, etc.

Other

What does this mean for theater, band, music, etc?

Some musical activities have gone online during the closure. Others are in haitus. Events like MICCA have been cancelled. We will have to take it one thing at a time to see if some things can be postponed or rescheduled instead of cancelled. Of course, you can practice, practice, practice while you are home.

If the situation improves will domestic and international travel be an option in June?

No. We have cancelled all trips through the remainder of the school year according to the Governor's direction.

How will teachers make up the lost time or cut topics when we get back?

The school year is officially reduced. We will to review curriculum and adjust our plans accordingly. Perhaps we can modify how we were going to teach concepts so we can still include them all. We will have to share more as the details are worked out.

Why are we not introducing new curriculum?

These are not technically school days. Our goals are to provide connections and keep skills fresh. Unlike private schools and colleges, we cannot keep offering new material unless we on a legally endorsed official school day. The State reduced the required 180 days in order to eliminate the demand for instruction. As of March 29 and the extended closure, this plan is under review.

Updates April 6, 2020

As happened until now, elementary teachers will continue to provide enrichment, extension, and review activities for students in reading, writing and math. The opportunity for depth and application is one that will foster critical thinking skills and personal growth. Rich content in Science and Social Studies will also be provided to each grade level.

At the secondary level, appropriate pieces of new content that can effectively be taught in this remote environment will start to be considered. It is expected that the pace and scope of this work cannot mirror that of a typical school year. If teachers are ill or not available, we will do our best to provide activities but it should be understood that substitutes are not available. As occurs during the regular school year, Tuesdays will reflect a reduced work load for elementary teachers.

How will this effect transitions especially from grade 8 to grade 9?

We still hope to hold the planned transition activities. If we can't hold them, we will come up with other creative ways to be sure you feel ready. Teachers will recognize that eighth grade was disrupted.