



# Ontario-Montclair School District

## Office of the Superintendent

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March 26, 2020

*Dear Ontario-Montclair School District Families,*

*The impacts of the coronavirus are touching every aspect of our lives and forcing all of us to find creative ways to adapt to this unprecedented situation. We know the disruption of normal school operations has created many issues and uncertainties for you and your family, from childcare and meals to educational programs and activities. In this letter, we will answer some of your most pressing questions related to these concerns, with the information we currently have available.*

**Please be advised, the information provided below is subject to change as we receive further guidance from State and County officials.**

### **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

#### **When will school reopen?**

Under direction from the San Bernardino County Department of Public Health and the San Bernardino County Superintendent's Office the Ontario-Montclair School District will keep our schools closed **at least through Friday, May 1, 2020**. Our new target date to reopen is Monday, May 4, 2020. As you know, things are changing daily, so there is the potential that the closures could be extended beyond May 1<sup>st</sup>. On March 17, 2020, California Governor Gavin Newsom advised parents to prepare for the possibility that schools may be closed through the summer break. While that could indeed happen, we remain hopeful that conditions will improve enough to allow us to reopen before the end of the school year.

#### **Are school sites and the District office open and how can I get updated information?**

Although schools and district offices will be closed until May 1, 2020, staff is responding to voicemail and email received Monday through Friday, within 48 hours. We encourage you to visit our website at [www.omsd.net](http://www.omsd.net) or twitter [@OMSD\\_omsd](https://twitter.com/OMSD_omsd) for the most up-to-date information about our temporary school closures. Additionally, information via constant contact will continue to come to you on a regular basis. To sign up to receive our the Superintendent's e-newsletter, [please click here](#).

#### **Will distance learning be provided for students at home?**

Teachers are currently providing distance learning for our students. Prior to the closure, our staff began the coordination and planning to provide high-quality distance learning with equitable access for all students, including English Learners and those with special needs. Being mindful of student access to technology, our teachers are being flexible with assignments and submission dates, and coordinating with families on a case-by-case basis if technology is limited or not available.

Please visit our [Distance Learning website](#), which is updated regularly, for additional information and resources. This page can also be found on all Symbaloo pages ([omsdstudent.symbaloo.com](https://omsdstudent.symbaloo.com), [omsdparent.symbaloo.com](https://omsdparent.symbaloo.com)), and on our OMSD mainpage: [www.omsd.net](http://www.omsd.net).

**What if my child does not have a computer device or other materials they need?**

In order to support distance learning, Chromebook and paper packet resources will be distributed from school sites March 30-April 1, 2020, from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Please contact your school for additional details about how to acquire a device for your student, if one is needed. For families without computers, who are able to gain internet access in their home, OMSD's goal is to provide one Chromebook per family, or if a family has more than two children, one computer for every two children in the family to share. Please visit your school website for latest schedule of distribution.

**What happens if I do not pick up the Chromebook during the timeline established or if the current device borrowed stops working? Will there be another time to get a device?**

Given the Governor's 'stay home' directive, there will not be make-up days for Chromebook pickup beyond March 30-April 1, 2020. Please reach out to your principal if you need to obtain a Chromebook beyond the March 30-April 1 pickup window.

If a student has an issue with the Chromebook they have borrowed, please first reach out to your student's teacher and ask for assistance. If the teacher is unable to solve the issue, the teacher will ask for additional support and if a resolution is not found, a replacement machine will be provided.

**Will Distance Learning work be graded?**

Ontario-Montclair School District teachers are offering flexibility and understanding of students as they are confronted with the ever-changing and challenging demands of life at home during the pandemic. With this in mind, we want our students to continue to engage in learning on a daily basis to continue their academic goals and objectives. Our teachers are determined to support students as they work to maintain skills and stay engaged in academic and social emotional learning. We are emphasizing engagement and participation, using grading only to provide feedback to students to advance learning.

**Are students required to participate in Distance Learning?**

Our distance learning program began on Monday, March 16, 2020, with enhancements to teachers, students, and parents available on March 30, 2020, via our Distance Learning website. Our teachers have been quite successful in working remotely with students and most students have been participating on a daily basis. It is important that students engage daily, to the greatest extent possible, so they make progress toward achieving academic goals.

However, we understand some families may have situations that make participation difficult; we are prepared to discuss those situations on a case-by-case basis. Teachers will continue to reach out to students who have not participated to ensure a plan is developed which will allow students to engage in distance learning. Please contact your school if your student is experiencing difficulty accessing the materials they need.

**How do I contact my student's teacher?**

Your student should already have a means of connecting with their teacher(s), either through SchoolLoop, Google Classroom, email, social media or by phone. If a student is having difficulty connecting with a teacher, please contact your child's school to support this important communication.

**How do I get help accessing the internet on the district Chromebook or in using the learning tools sent from the teacher?**

Assuming your home is equipped with internet access, we will share a brief guide to accessing the internet using your borrowed device. These instructions will be provided during the Chromebook check out process. For families who do not have access to internet, you may visit the District website to learn about resource that are currently being made available to families through outside entities.

**What's happening with CAASPP and ELPAC testing?**

Governor Newsom signed an Executive Order suspending this year's statewide testing (CAASPP and Summative ELPAC for English learners) for all California K-12 students due to the pandemic. This suspension does require federal approval, and we will keep all of our families updated on these developments.

**Will school meals continue to be provided?**

Yes. The Ontario-Montclair School District will continue to provide school meals for our students. Grab-and-Go lunches (and next day's breakfast) can be picked up in accordance with the schedule below. Below is a list of OMSD locations for meal pick up:

- **March 30<sup>th</sup> through April 1<sup>st</sup>** – All sites from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- **April 2<sup>nd</sup>** – All sites from 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (Students will receive meals for 2 days on this day)
- **April 3<sup>rd</sup>** – No meal service
- **April 6<sup>th</sup> through May 1<sup>st</sup>** – Sites, dates, and hours to be determined. Please check the District and/or school website for the most recent schedule of offerings.

NOTE: Children no longer need to be present to pick up meals at our school sites, but please be prepared to provide your child's name and school in your area when you pick up meal(s).

**Are counseling services available for my child?**

Yes. At this time, all counseling services are being provided over the phone and current clients have been contacted. If your child is already, receiving counseling services and you have questions, or if you are interested in a referral for new counseling services, please call one of our Family Resource Centers below:

- Ontario - (909) 418-6923
- Montclair - (909) 445-1616

**Will the Parent Educational Center (PEC) provide Distance Learning for parents?**

Parents enrolled in classes at the Parent Educational Center (PEC) will continue with regular communication from their instructor based on the class in which they are enrolled. Additionally, parents wishing to connect to online resources to support their learning and ability to help their

students at home may find them through our **Distance Learning** website at OMSD.net. Under the Parents/PEC section on the home page, bilingual resources are included.

**How can I find out about resources available in the community?**

If you are struggling with basic needs (food, clothing, shelter, etc.) please call one of our Family Resource Centers above or click the informational letter below:

[FCS COVID 19 English Parent Letter](#)

[FCS COVID 19 Spanish Parent Letter](#)

**Will my child pass on to the next grade?**

Students will advance to the next grade level when school resumes in August, unless the school site's Student Study Team has met with parents and has made a recommendation to repeat a grade. The District's policy on grade placement has not changed. If you have questions about your child's grade placement, you may contact your child's teacher.

**Will there be a report card this year, if so what will it look like for my child?**

Ontario-Montclair Learning & Teaching staff are considering all options for report cards for second semester (middle school) and third trimester (elementary schools) and will make a decision to offer feedback to parents on student achievement of state standards, which may or may not include letter grades.

**For my child's Special Education program, how will my child's annual and triennial IEP be held?** The District will utilize teleconferencing to conduct IEP meetings. Staff will begin to contact parents the week of March 30, 2020 to schedule meetings.

**Will my child receive Special Education related services during the school closure?** Students will be provided related services to the greatest extent possible using a variety of methods, including, but not limited to, phone call, Zoom, email (if available), etc.

**My Special Education student is currently eligible for Extended School Year (ESY), will the District provide ESY for the 2019-2020 academic school year?**

Yes. The Special Education Department is in the process of planning to provide ESY for all eligible students, pending decisions regarding school closures.

**Will there be Promotion Ceremonies for the 8<sup>th</sup> Graders?**

If school resumes on May 4, 2020, promotion ceremonies will be held for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. If another extension of school closure occurs, decisions regarding promotion ceremonies will follow.

*Please know there are dedicated teachers, administrators, and support staff working hard to provide for your students' academic needs and overall wellbeing during these challenging times. This situation is evolving rapidly, and we will continue to share new information with you as it becomes available. For the latest updates, please continue to visit our OMSD main page at [www.omsd.net](http://www.omsd.net).*

*Sincerely,  
James Q. Hammond, Ed.D., Superintendent  
Ontario-Montclair School District*