

From: Maumee City Schools <SchoolMessenger@maumeeek12.org>
Subject: COVID-19 Update 4/14/20

April 14, 2020

Dear Parents,

We have come a very long way together in a very short time. The coronavirus continues to impact our daily lives personally and professionally. I want you to know I understand this is a hard time for many but the strength I am seeing from our community, including our students and staff is nothing short of inspiring.

Please know that we realize that parents are still parents first and our children are still sons and daughters first...the transition of parents to teachers and children to students is secondary to the importance of maintaining our family structures and relationships. I hope this message comes through in a strong and consistent manner as we continue to endure this school closure.

As of today, there have been 16 days of online instruction for Maumee students. I want to take a moment to share a few updates with you about the rest of this school year, how grading is being handled, and also some results from the parent survey many of you recently completed. Please be sure to read all the way through this email because there is a great deal of important information for you and your family included.

There are two questions that I am asked most often.

The first is, **Will Maumee be returning to school this year?**

The best answer I can give you today is to echo Governor DeWine's recent comments. He said that he is not prepared to say when or if schools might reopen this school year and suggested it was wise for schools to make plans in the event schools can open after May 1 and to also make plans if schools are not permitted to open when the current "stay at home" order expires on May 1.

This means that we want to continue to improve Maumee's online and at-home learning for the current time and also have solid plans ready to put into place for both returning and not returning to school this year.

One way we are planning improvements to online and at-home learning is by using data from the recently ended parent survey. Thank you to every parent who completed a survey for his/her children in kindergarten through 12th grade. We received input for 918 Maumee City Schools students.

According to the data:

80% of parents agreed or strongly agreed that assignments are manageable and well organize

71% reported that their child hears regularly from their teacher(s)

77% say that communication from teachers and administration has helped them facilitate their child's learning

73% said that they were comfortable helping their child with Google Classroom and/or Seesaw

About 38% of our parents are at home and are not currently working. That means that almost $\frac{2}{3}$ of our students have parents who are working at home or who have parents that are not at home during the day to help them with school work

While we are pleased that the majority of parents feel things are going well, we know that there are many parents and students who are struggling due to factors beyond their control. Teachers are taking into account the myriad of reasons why students may not be able to work to their full potential during these stay at home days: parents not home during the day, overwhelming and inaccessible content, siblings to take care of, struggles with anxiety or depression, family or friends getting sick, being sick themselves, etc.

The most expressed suggestion parents provided was to please simplify the daily and weekly experience for students (and parents). To this end, these are our remote learning beliefs:

Teachers are being encouraged not to try to replicate a traditional school day - especially with regard to a daily schedule and timetable. Rather, we want them to provide thoughtful, well-explained instructional lessons with flexible activities that strive for quality rather than quantity.

Remote learning should not have an adverse impact on student grades and GPA and we will pay attention to maintaining a healthy social-emotional state for each student.

Teachers are determining what are the most essential concepts in their 4th quarter/3rd trimester courses.

Assignment grades are being collected but will focus only on essential pieces of learning.

Teachers will give students opportunities to re-do work, makeup missing assignments and turn in late assignments.

The second most frequently asked question is, **How is Maumee going to handle final grades for students?**

Students continue to be encouraged to work hard and do their best given the current circumstances. Parents are asked to please stay in contact with your child's teachers because keeping the lines of communication open is critical to student success.

We understand that we must find a balance between continuing the educational process and the pressing realities that students and families are facing each day. The survey showed that some parents believe their children are not being challenged enough while others are distressed that keeping up with at-home schooling is difficult and at times feels impossible. As a school district, we are doing all we can to meet each student and each family where they are each day.

Undoubtedly, the coming weeks will bring additional changes and challenges in our personal lives and for our children's schooling. Once the state makes a determination about the remainder of this school year, we will be able to finalize and communicate our 4th quarter/3rd

trimester grading plan and overall yearly grading plan. We will share these details just as soon as we possibly can.

In looking ahead, I also want to share that we are currently discussing and preparing for the reality of not being able to start the 2020-2021 school year on August 19th. We will stay in communication about changes to our school calendar as soon as these decisions are made. I have had several questions about the potential of extending this school year. At this time I do not foresee us extending the current school year, rather we are focused on ensuring a successful start next year.

New Information

New COVID-19 Risk Assessment Tool Launched

A new COVID-19 risk assessment tool on the Paramount website allows readers to answer questions about any recent symptoms, health history, travel history, and community exposure to determine their risk of acquiring COVID-19, based on the latest Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines.

The assessment is located on the left side of our COVID-19 microsite.

<https://www.paramounthealthcare.com/covid-19/>

Capped Open Enrollment to Begin for 2020-21 School Year

The district will institute a capped open enrollment policy for the 2020-21 school year. Based on current enrollment, we have room for just a few students at some grade levels and up to 15 students at others. Capped open enrollment applications will be prioritized based on eight criteria that are set by board policy.

There are positive financial benefits for moving to capped open enrollment and also this change means we are better able to preserve current structures, programs, and course offerings that may not be sustainable if we do not address our enrollment trend. To be clear, we are not looking to grow, rather maintain our current classrooms.

The capped open enrollment application deadline is May 1, 2020 and applications may be picked up from the box attached to the front door of the Administration Building (716 Askin Street). To learn more call 419-720-3285.

Meals

Please note that we have changed our district serving site from Maumee High School to Gateway Middle School. Please fill out this [Grab & Go Order Form](#) if you have not already filled out so that we know you need meals.

Resource Guide Created by Maumee's School Counselors (K-12)

Our school counselors have developed a resource guide for students and families. [LINK](#)

Parent and Guardian Remote Learning Support and Advice

Mrs. Marshall has created presentations designed to support parents and guardians in educating your students during our school closure. Click [HERE](#) to access this information. For more information, we also have a [website](#) full of resources.

Student Focused - Teaching and Learning Information

Technology Support

If you need assistance please email helpdesk@maumeek12.org. If you do not have a way to email, you may call 419-720-3285 and a request for assistance will be created for you.

General Information

Maumee City Schools Contact Number & Hours

All schools and offices, including our district administration building, are closed. You can still reach us by phone at 419-720-3285.

Visit Our Health Information Page for Information & Resources

We are keeping this webpage updated with links and resources provided by a number of community organizations and health care providers. The latest posting is from Ohio State University Libraries & News Service. [LINK](#)

Community Information

District/Community Resource Link

We have created a document to capture many of the resources available for our students, parents, and community. [LINK](#)

Todd Cramer - Superintendent