



Montclair Public Schools
Office of the Superintendent
May 1, 2020

COVID-19 Notification No. 16

Dear Families, Caregivers, and Staff,

Salute to our Teachers and Nurses

Next week, May 4 through 8, is our first ever remote National Teacher Appreciation Week and May 6 is National School Nurse Day. I don't think anyone could have predicted we would be celebrating from a social distance! Our teachers and nurses deserve our admiration more than ever as they have risen to the challenge of these difficult circumstances, each adapting their procedures and protocols, executing their new, virtual classrooms and offices, and remaining connected to students and families. I am so proud of their hard work, dedication and creativity in ensuring that our students remain their priority, all while managing their own home situations. So although it may not be possible to bake cookies and send in treats, I hope that you will join me in wishing our teachers and nurses the very best. And, I will be inviting our Governor's Educator of the Year recipients to our May 18 Board Meeting where you will have a chance to "meet" them as we honor their prestigious achievement.

Grading

The message below was sent to our families from their school's principals. I am including it here as a reminder.

The Montclair Public School District will continue to assess students using letter grades for middle and high school classes including electives. This decision is grounded in the practical nature of keeping students motivated to complete their work and grow in their learning while we continue to recognize their efforts.

Please be advised that in Marking Period 4, teachers will be entering a "missing" or "M" in place of assignments that have not been turned in by the specified due date. This was the practice when school was in session prior to March 13th.

When a teacher submits an "M" in Genesis, it will appear as a zero in that student's gradebook. To prevent missing assignments from dramatically impacting a student's grade point average, "missing" assignments will be changed by mid-May from a zero to a score of 55 for the fourth marking period. We are committed to the belief that remote learning should not be detrimental to a student's success.

This means that if a student misses any assignment, the work should be completed and submitted as soon as possible. Students with missing grades should continue to work forward to keep their overall average as high as possible.

We feel that students need to be aware of their grades and be prompted to monitor their progress.

Thank you for your continued support.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

The Department of Equity, Curriculum and Instruction developed a [Frequently Asked Questions document](#) for your reference in understanding the many facets of remote teaching and learning. Our aim is to provide a user-friendly document that will answer some of the most common questions in this new virtual environment. Topics range from general information, attendance, assessment, registration, technology, extracurricular, and more. Please take a moment to review this tool.

Food Service

Please be advised that effective May 4 **all families who have been impacted by COVID-19 but do not have a free/reduced meal application are able to pick up breakfast/lunch** at Toni's Kitchen 73 S. Fullerton Avenue on Mondays and Thursdays from 9 am until 5 pm. This is a **new offer and is in addition to those families with an approved free/reduced meal application.**

MFEE Fundraiser - TikTok

Join the Montclair Fund for Educational Excellence's (MFEE's) TikTok Together Dance Challenge to raise funds for emerging needs in Montclair Public Schools! MHS Senior Claire Daddabbo created the [29-second dance](#) and performed it with her family to help MFEE raise critical funds. Families, teens, and ANY community member can compete for the Montclair championship titles before May 20.

Teams will recruit donors to "vote" for their performance through donations. The team with the **greatest number** of donations will be awarded the MFEE TikTok Crowd Favorite award, and the team with the **highest amount raised** earns the title of MFEE TikTok Titan!

Proceeds support new initiatives to boost distance learning like the new MFEE Peer Led Educational Engagement Program (PEEPs) to support our most vulnerable students, tech resources, and programs for social/emotional needs of students and families.

Visit www.mfee.org to find out how to participate in the challenge or to donate to a team!

Stay well, stay safe and stay connected. We are all in this together, and we will all get through this together!

Thank you, Dr. Nathan Parker