



Holly Area Schools

Excellence in Action!

Holly Middle School - Distance Learning Program

Frequently Asked Questions

On Thursday, April 2, 2020, Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer issued [Executive Order 2020-35](#), which suspended in-person instruction for Michigan students in kindergarten through 12th grade for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year.

1. Will students be expected to participate in online distance learning for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year?

Response: ***Yes, HMS Student Expectations for Learning are covered in #3***

The Executive Order indicates that schools must develop, have approved, and implement a plan that will address (among other items) the following:

- The methods that the district will use to provide alternative modes of instruction other than in-person instruction.
- Describe outreach and other strategies aimed at keeping students at the center of all educational activities and to continue to build relationships and maintain connections that help students feel safe and valued.
- Describe plans to deliver content so that all students can access learning.
- Describe plans to manage and monitor learning by students.
- Describe how student learning will be managed and monitored.
- Describe the methods that the district will use to notify students and parents or guardians of the plan.

2. What if a student does not have access to technology resources that are necessary for learning under the school district's plan?

Response:

The Order states that, “if the plan relies on electronic instruction, the plan must ensure to the *extent feasible* that [students] have access to a connected device capable of accessing the electronic instruction and must not penalize a [student] for the [student's] inability to fully participate.”

If you have a concern with a HAS Chromebook, or are having other hardware concerns limiting your ability to participate in our Distance Learning program, please contact Mr. Curl at eric.curl@hask12.org

If you are having difficulty accessing learning platforms or Google Classrooms, please contact your child's teacher. [Link to Staff Email](#)

Holly Middle School

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Eric Curl, Principal
Haley Street, Assistant Principal

3. How will students in 6th - 8th grade be provided coursework and what are their learning expectations?

Response:

Math and ELA will utilize adaptive learning platforms designed to engage students at their current level of development and provide them with the appropriate challenge. Math will be using i-Ready and ELA will be using Reading Plus and No Red Ink. These are programs that our students and staff are familiar with. All daily learning agendas will be pushed through the teachers Google Classroom.

Science and Social Studies teachers are creating lessons to develop and strengthen student understanding of essential standards that can be used as building blocks in future classes. All lessons will be pushed through the teachers Google Classroom.

Elective teachers are developing enrichment opportunities for students to continue to pursue their interests and passions. All enrichment opportunities will be pushed through the teachers Google Classroom. *Students enrolled in Spanish I and French I for HS credit will be enrolled in Odysseyware.*

All lessons are designed to be no longer than 45 minutes with each day's total learning not to exceed 3 hours.

Math

- Students are expected to log into i-Ready, using CLEVER, and complete 2 lessons and 1-2 quizzes each week.
- Students *may*, for Extended Learning, access Big Ideas enrichment lessons provided by their teacher (this information will be posted in the teachers Google Classroom).
- *Algebra I and Geometry students will be enrolled through HHS Odysseyware program to earn HS credit*

ELA

- Students are expected to log in, using CLEVER, and engage with Reading Plus each Tuesday and Thursday for 30 minutes per session.
- Students are expected to log in and engage with No Red Ink on Tuesday and Journal write on Thursday for their writing lessons (roughly 15 minutes each session). Teachers will communicate writing prompts through Google Classroom.
- Students are *encouraged* to read for pleasure for 20-30 minutes everyday and update their Reading Tracker. All students have access to EPIC - which has access to thousands of free online books and other free reading resources (check your teachers Google Classroom page for details).

Sci./Soc. Studies

- Students are expected to participate in weekly lessons created by their teachers.
- Students are expected to submit learning checks through Google Classroom each week.

All teachers will host "Office Hours" during the week (see [HMS website](#) subject pages for times) and will be checking in with their Homeroom students on Friday. During "Office Hours" teachers will be checking and responding to email questions/requests within the hour. Additionally, "Office Hours" are often when teachers will choose to host Google Meets with their students.

4. How will the school support my students Social/Emotional needs?

Response: All Secondary (6th - 12th grade) counselors and social workers have been working together to provide services for our students during this time. Office Hours, contact information, and more can be found on our [Counselors website](#).

5. When will the school district be required to begin implementing the alternative learning methods described in the district's plan?

Response:

HAS will begin our Distance Learning program on Wednesday, April 15th

6. Will the 2019-20 school year be extended?

Response: *No*

7. Will students receive credit(s) for participation in distance learning provided by the school?

Response: *Yes, Please see #3 for Student Learning Expectations*

8. Will students receive grades for participation in distance learning provided by the school?

Response: *No, the academic focus of our Distance Learning program is engagement and continuous learning, see #3 for Student Learning Expectations and [Mr. Curl's updated Letter to Families on April 27th](#).*

Why not?

The Governor's office recognizes that schools are unable to provide the same level of rigor and required course-level academic standards during this closure; issuing a credit is appropriate. Students are expected to meet the Student Learning Expectations explained in the Holly Middle School Distance Learning program (detailed in #3).

9. Will students or parents/guardians be allowed to visit the school to obtain materials and equipment pursuant to the plan?

Response: *Yes:*

However, not until the Superintendent's office allows access and the Governor's Stay Safe, Stay Home executive order is lifted.

10. Does the Executive Order address athletics and other extracurricular activities?

Response: *Yes.*

The MHSAA has cancelled all school sponsored winter and spring sports for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year.

11. Will students be required to complete the Michigan Student Test of Educational Placement (M-STEP), or Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT) state assessments?

Response: *No, state testing was suspended by the Federal Government for the 2019-2020 school year.*

12. If a student has an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or a Section 504 plan, how will the student receive educational services?

Response:

Districts are expected to make a good faith effort based on existing resources, technology, training, and curriculum, as well as the circumstances, to provide equal access to alternative modes of instruction to students with disabilities for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. Caseload teachers will regularly check in with students who have an IEP and Counselors will be checking in with students who have a 504.

13. How will Individualized Education Program (IEP)'s be reviewed and/or updated during the 2019-2020 school year?

Response:

Annual or otherwise due IEP reviews, updates, etc. will occur either online, by telephone conference or video conference to the extent practicable under the circumstances.

14. Where can I access a copy of my school district's plan?

Response:

Districts are required to post a copy of their plan, once approved, on the district's website.