



# MERIDIAN EARLY COLLEGE

## Office of the Principal

December 3, 2020

Dear MECHS Learners and Families,

### IN-PERSON LEARNING RESUMES WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9th:

After careful consideration, MECHS is excited to announce we will welcome back all face-to-face students to in-person learning on **Wednesday, December 9th!** Remote learning will continue through Tuesday, December 8th. Attendance is expected at LIVE Zoom sessions on Monday, December 7th, with ECHO independent learning on Tuesday, December 8th. You can view the MERPS district communication [HERE](#).

While our plan is to return to in-person learning on Wednesday, December 9th, ***this date could change if the Department of Health and Human Services extends the current order*** which “paused” high school face-to-face learning on November 18th. Any communication regarding any calendar changes will be sent via email, website, Facebook, and a text message reminder.

### Illness:

As we prepare to return to in-person learning, it is CRITICAL we work together to ensure the safety of our staff, faculty, students, and families. Please keep your child HOME if they are experiencing cold or flu like symptoms OR if they have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 OR someone in the household is awaiting COVID results.

LEARNERS MUST STAY HOME IF:

1. SOMEONE WITHIN THE HOUSEHOLD IS EXPERIENCING COVID-19 SYMPTOMS
2. SOMEONE WITHIN THE HOUSEHOLD IS AWAITING COVID-19 TEST RESULTS
3. EXPERIENCING COVID-19 SYMPTOMS THEMSELVES

Please reach out to the MECHS office for further guidance on illness. If you have symptoms of illness, **PLEASE** stay home! Make the Mustang Promise to screen for symptoms **DAILY!** Visit [www.merps.org/covid19](http://www.merps.org/covid19) for more information.

### COVID-19 SAFETY:

We MUST stay focused on safety protocols to ensure that we are able to continue face-to-face learning. Mask wear, hand washing/sanitizing, physical distancing, and staying home when you are ill is CRITICAL to ensure the safety of our school and local community.

**Strict adherence to mask wear is expected. Properly fitting masks are required.** As school wore on, we noticed more frequent issues with proper mask wear. Although masks are available in the office, we are finding mask fit is extremely personalized to a person’s face shape. It is essential for the safety of our staff, students, and families, that your child wear a properly fitting mask at all times.

Please talk to your child about the importance of physical distance. Socialization is a crucial part of school. However, this must occur safely. Maintaining physical space from others plays an important role in ensuring we can continue in-person learning.

## GRADES AND ACADEMIC SUPPORT:

Doing remote learning, grading timelines and expectations remained the same as if we were in-person learning. We understand that learning at home is NOT the same as face to face learning. Please know we are here to help support your child. Asking for help is essential if your child has fallen behind in their courses.

### Grades:

**ECHO access is important to keep up to date on your child(ren) academic progress.** If you need help accessing your ECHO account, please get comfortable with ECHO:

- Website to access ECHOL [merps.echo-ntn.org](http://merps.echo-ntn.org)
- Help Videos: <https://www.youtube.com/user/MPSMustangs/videos>
- Email [help@merps.org](mailto:help@merps.org) if you need support with your ECHO log in

### Academic Support:

Faculty is available via email and phone, as well as by scheduling a virtual appointment for academic support:

- ❖ Find a list of email addresses and phone number HERE: [tinyurl.com/mechsstaff](http://tinyurl.com/mechsstaff)

**Academic Tutoring Center** is OPEN to ALL 9-12th grade MECHS students at NO COST. This service will be resuming on **Wednesday, December 9th!**

- ❖ Faculty tutors are available on **Tuesday-Thursday from 3:10-4:30PM**
- ❖ After school snacks are provided
- ❖ **Location:** MECHS Commons
- ❖ Sign up HERE or visit [tinyurl.com/mechstutoring](http://tinyurl.com/mechstutoring) to ensure we have proper staffing and food

## Counseling and Mental Health Support

Counseling staff is available to support your child's mental health and well-being. In addition, academic and career counseling staff is also here to support your post secondary planning. To access any of MECHS Student Support Services, please fill out the request form HERE: <http://tinyurl.com/mechshelp>

We appreciate your continued trust as your partner in learning. Now, more than ever, we must work together to support the help and safety of our school and local community. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me with additional questions or concerns: [tara.mager@merps.org](mailto:tara.mager@merps.org) or 989.687.3300.

Warm Regards,

*Tara Mager*

MECHS Principal