

Good Evening Pine Crest Families!

These are trying times and we have all been impacted in a multitude of ways by COVID-19. I want you to know that we send our prayers and positive thoughts your way during these difficult and trying times. A spirit of hope and patience are needed as we work together as a school community to ensure that our families are safe and their needs are met while we continue to move our instructional programming forward. Here are the updates for the week:

- **Pine Crest Distance Learning Schedule** - Please see the updated schedules on our school website or contact your teacher directly. Also remember that it is an expectation that your children are attending their classes. We are taking daily attendance. If your child is not able to attend, please let the teacher know. Don't forget to have your child check their personal school email for updated information and engaging activities for their Art, Music, and PE classes.
- **Spirit Days** – Thursday, April 23 is Pajama Day! Wear your favorite PJ's to class!
- **Food Distribution** - Beginning April 20, 2020, MCPS will adjust its meal service program from operating five days a week to a four-day-per-week schedule. This adjustment is being made in an effort to ensure student and staff safety, and to reduce opportunities for the spread of COVID-19 (coronavirus). Meal sites will operate as normal on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays. On Wednesdays, MCPS will provide two days' worth of meals. On Thursdays, all meal sites will be closed. Meals will be provided from 11 a.m.–1 p.m.
- **Reading and Math Packet Distribution** - MCPS will distribute printed instructional materials at meal sites every Wednesday beginning April 22, 2020. These packets will provide mathematics and literacy content for elementary and secondary students. You can also access the elementary packets on our school website.
- **Chromebook and MiFi Distribution** - Chromebooks and MiFi devices will be available for families to pick up at a distribution site assigned by MCPS. Families will be contacted via ConnectEd and will pick up their devices on either Monday, April 20, 2020 or Tuesday April 21, 2020. Central office will directly communicate the assigned distribution location, date, and time for pick up to families over the weekend. There will be no extra devices. Only students who are contacted will receive devices. If you are not contacted, please let your classroom teacher know and/or leave a message on our main office voicemail (240-740-1970) about what you may still need to access distance learning.
- **Troubleshooting Access to Zoom** – Please check our school website for a troubleshooting document about accessing Zoom. If you continue to need technical assistance, please email myMCPS_support@mcpsmd.org.
- **Guidelines for Zoom Meetings** – Please note the following expectations during live lessons. MCPS will be providing more information about this.
 - Parents and guardians, siblings, and nonstudents are not to be observing or participating during the live lesson in order to protect student's privacy rights, unless it is necessary for them to assist their student to enable them to participate in the lesson.
 - If you have to help a student access their lesson because they are unable to do so, you must refrain from participating in the lessons and can not disclose any protected student information in any manner.
 - Students should mute their microphone during instruction.
 - Lessons are not to be recorded, screen shot, photographed, or copied in any way, and images may not be copied from the lesson.

- **Virtual MK/PC PTA Meeting** – Have questions/thoughts/concerns about distance learning? Join the PTA on Tuesday, April 21st at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom for a virtual meeting with fellow parents, teachers, and administration for a discussion about distance learning and what we, as parents and teachers, can do moving forward. Please find the Zoom link in our email for access to the meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/2408883494>.
- **Schools Closed Until May 15** - Governor Larry Hogan and State Superintendent of Schools Karen Salmon announced that Maryland public schools will be closed until May 15. We know that the announcement of the extended closure raises many questions for our parents, students and staff—from plans for the continuation of online learning to the school calendar and graduation. This weekend, MCPS will send messages to the community that will begin to address many of these questions and concerns. Visit the [coronavirus webpage](#) frequently and sign up to receive important alerts through the [Alert Montgomery system](#).

The staff at Pine Crest appreciate all that you are doing to support our efforts! If you need assistance let us know. Please continue to follow social distancing guidelines and remain safe and healthy! 😊

Cheryl E. Booker
Principal