

Marathon Central School District
Office of the Superintendent of Schools
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Mrs. Rebecca Stone
Superintendent

Mrs. Heather Euson
District Clerk

April 20, 2020

Dear Parents and Students,

Many of us have heard the term “This is the new normal”. I have to say there is nothing normal about what we are all going through. It is not normal that teachers switched over to distance learning with a snap of a finger. (I am very proud of the work our Marathon staff have been doing and will continue to do for our students). It is not normal that parents are now expected to manage their household with all family members present, provide help to their children when they learn, many continuing to work from home and all with uncooperative internet. If you are feeling frustrated and overwhelmed, you are not alone. We are here to help you and to tell you keep up the great work. We know you are putting your all into making this crazy situation work and we appreciate all you are doing. Take a moment to take a deep breath. We will be continuing this journey for a while longer, but we will continue it TOGETHER.

NY Continues to Stay On Pause

On April 16th, Governor Cuomo continued with the NY pause through May 15th. This means that students will continue distance learning at least through May 15th. Marathon will make meals available until students can safely return to school. We will be moving to a delivery only system beginning April 22nd and will work with families to make sure you get what you need.

Grading

3rd Quarter Grading - The third quarter consists of grades students earned prior to moving to distance learning (February 1st-March 16th) and after (March 17th-April 10th). We understand that as students and families began the distance learning process, there were many hurdles to overcome. To acknowledge this, no student will receive a failing grade for any assignment given between March 17th and April 10th.

4th Quarter Grading - During the 4th quarter standard grading procedures will be followed. Students will be given opportunities to complete work throughout the 4th quarter. If a student needs extra time to complete an assignment, they can work with their teacher to obtain this. Students who do not complete work will receive a zero or no credit for the assignment.

5 week reports will be mailed on May 13th (ES) and May 22nd (HS). This will help students and parents understand where they stand with their grades. Parents of students in grades 7-12 can use SchoolTool to look at student grades throughout the quarter.

Assessments

- 3-8 ELA and math state assessments have been canceled along with Regents exams.
- Students in regents courses: Students who pass the course will not have to take the regents in the future to gain course credit. Students who fail the course will be required to retake the course to gain credit.
- At the Junior/Senior High School, no final exams will be given at the end of the 2019-2020 school year. The weight of each quarter will change. With the elimination of the final exam (20% of their grade), each quarter will now be weighted 25%.

Don't Forget Self-Care

- **Make time for yourself** - When forced to stay at home, we have to be intentional about creating space to recharge and decompress. This could look like taking a shower or bath, walking around

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the block alone (or with your dog), or designating time to read or simply zone out after the kids have gone to bed.

- **Prioritize healthy choices** -The added stress and lack of structure we're all experiencing right now can make it easy to slip into habits that feel good in the moment but can be detrimental in the long term. "Make sure you're eating properly, try to get enough sleep (but not too much!), and create a routine that includes physical activity.
- **Be realistic** - Parents should remind themselves that these are unprecedented times. "There's no playbook for this. Remember you're doing your best during a very difficult time. Cut yourself some slack."
- **Set Boundaries** - Anxiety is rampant right now. With so much worry and uncertainty floating around it can be easy to absorb other people's fears and concerns without even realizing it. If you have a friend or family member who's in the habit of sending worst-case-scenario news or is prone to sending anxiety-provoking text messages, practice a little emotional distancing. Let them know you sympathize but that you're taking a break from worrying news, or simply hit the Do Not Disturb button. You can always reconnect when things are calmer.
- **Reconnect with things you enjoy** - Think proactively of things you can do with this enforced time at home. Get back in touch with hobbies or activities you enjoy but rarely have time for, or make the choice to learn a new skill. If young children make solo activities unrealistic, seek out activities you can enjoy together, like baking bread, or making art. Excerpt from <https://childmind.org/article/self-care-in-the-time-of-coronavirus/>.

If you find your child needs help, please reach out to our counseling staff:

- Mrs. Wheeler - wheelerj@marathonschools.org
- Mr. Maroney- maroneyj@marathonschools.org
- Mrs. James – jamesd@marathonschools.org – 849-3229
- Ms. Camenga – camengaj@marathonschools.org – 849-3229
- Mrs. Kendall – kendallp@marathonschools.org
- Mrs. Hartnett – hartnettj@marathonschools.org

Capital Project Information

You may have noticed that our capital project has begun. Construction of public & charter schools has been deemed essential as long as they can maintain social distancing (6ft between people) and do all appropriate cleaning & disinfecting. We have begun work on the locker alcove, the main electric panel and some of our septic lines.

Locker Alcove



New Electric



High School Sanitary Pipe Removal



Thank you for all you are doing. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please call or email us.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Stone
Marathon Superintendent