

I have a PhD in a scientific field, and use Zoom everyday for my work (and this was before the current crisis), yet despite setting things up and watching all the videos that MCPS sent and uploaded, I could not get my child connected to her first class this am, except via phone.

After a quick breather, and realizing the daunting task that is taking an entire school system of our size and switching it to online learning, I was able to follow the following steps and get her connected. I hope they're helpful.

1. If you are using a personal Chromebook or laptop, shut the entire thing down and log out of all accounts.
2. Login to your personal Chromebook as the MCPS child -
> studentID@mcpsmd.net (your child should know their password). If you're not using a Chromebook, go to Step 3.
3. Login to Chrome (even if you've logged into the Chromebook) as your child. The little icon picture in the top right should be your child's icon. They should know what it looks like and if it's right. If it's not, shut down the computer and start with Step 1 again. If you have 2 or more children, and they are using the same computer, it will be important that they are logged completely out before logging into their individual account so they can have access to their teacher's Zooms.
4. Click on the Zoom link your child's teacher sent. Do NOT download Zoom. Just click to join with a web browser.
5. It will prompt you to login to Zoom. Login via Google sign in, and again, use your child's MCPS login information. This will validate that they are supposed to be there in that classroom.
6. If you did the first 5 steps right, you'll get in. We did not do Step 5 right somehow, and were unable to get into the first teacher's meeting, but managed to figure it out in time for the 2nd meeting.
7. Breathe. Your child will be learning soon, and the reality is, we have it better than some school systems (In Alexandria, not every child is guaranteed access to Chromebooks, for example). Yes, things aren't perfect, but I think in times like this, what is? And it's not like MCPS was perfect before (or else, why would we need a MCCPTA, lol?)
8. Consider writing a note to your teacher to tell them how much you appreciate them. Teaching our kids is no trivial task!

Ginormous hugs to all of you who are doing your best to keep it all together in this unparalleled time of crazy,
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