



# Minnetonka High School

Innovate. Inspire. Excel.



Dear MHS Students and Parents,

I hope this letter finds you doing well and staying healthy. I strongly believe that gratitude is the key to happiness. Today, I'm grateful for your support, flexibility, and understanding as we work to create a strong school e-learning experience for all. I'm grateful for our students who continue to exhibit positivity and school spirit, virtually. I'm grateful for our entire staff who have been intensely working and collaborating to prepare for April 6.

Today, I'd like to share more about our e-learning plan that begins April 6, as well as information on additional supports. This plan will continue through at least May 4. Here are a few key components of our plan:

We have developed a NEW A and B Day Schedule, with three periods each day. This schedule allows for 85 minutes per class for instruction, practice, support and group time. This block of time is meant to provide ample flexibility for you and the teacher versus 85 minutes of direct instruction. For each class period, attendance will be recorded, and students will need to be engaged during the class session.

Students, I know that you may have questions about work from 3rd quarter. Some of you have submitted work to teachers. Some of you have asked about outstanding tests. Teachers will exercise grace and understanding as they work with you. In this unique time, we need the flexibility of all as we move ahead. Please keep in mind that we don't have quarter grades. The quarter 3 "grade" is simply a snapshot of your progress at that time. The only grade recorded on your official transcript is the final semester grade. Looking ahead to quarter 4, there will still be summative assessments and your teachers will share with you how they will look.

Sometimes, when there is a significant disruption to our normal lives, it is important to remind ourselves of what **won't** change. The following practices will continue to

guide our work:

- Our focus on relationships and community
- Each teacher's commitment to supporting each student and their success
- Timely and specific feedback on students' progress
- Counselors' caring and supportive connections with students (As a reminder, counselors are available now and can be reached through school email and can meet with students virtually).
- Our commitment to helping our seniors finish strong and honoring and celebrating their ongoing accomplishments and contributions.
- Our weekly and episodes of Beyond 140 and daily morning announcements
- Lastly, grace, flexibility, compassion, and understanding will guide our collective work during these uncertain times. **My most important message:** we will work with you.

*Here are the links to our website for more detail including the daily schedule, frequently asked questions, iPad repair, student support, and more.*

[Click here!](#)

We are a relationship-based community, and those relationships drive our work. That's one of the reasons this current reality is so difficult. Students, I have been encouraged to see you continue to engage through Google Meets, FaceTime, Instagram and Schoology and baking banana bread.

Tonka, keep healthy. Take care of yourselves. Practice your social distancing. Keep reaching out with any questions. Look out for each other. Find new ways to connect. Find that iPad and log into Schoology. Keep positive. **Our work isn't done yet.**

Thanks for your leadership. In the middle of this type of situation, I could not imagine leading a better student community and working with a better staff.

Take care, Tonka and I miss you.  
Jeff Erickson

#KIR