



River Valley School District

River Valley Middle High School

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www.rivervalleyschools.org/mhs

River Valley Middle High School Continuity of Learning Plan

Summary

COVID-19 School Closure

Summary of Events:

On March 13th, 2020 schools were closed by Governor Whitmer until April 13th in order to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus. On April 2nd, 2020, Gov. Whitmer issued an Executive Order for school buildings to be closed for the remainder of the school year.

As a result of COVID-19 and the closing of school buildings for the 2019-2020 School Year, school districts must implement a Continuity of Learning and COVID-19 Response Plan in order to continue to receive state aid for operations. **Although schools are closed and not providing in-person instruction, teaching and learning must continue.** Michigan educators have been called to provide our students with continued learning.

When schools closed on March 13th, all work assigned was considered “optional” for students to complete in order to keep skills and learning fresh for when we returned to school. Once the order was given to shut down school buildings for the rest of the year, optional work will be shifted to required work for credit.

Summary of COL Plan:

1. **Beginning Monday, April 13, 2020, all work assigned to students will be collected for credit.**
 - a. If a student was on track to advance with a passing grade, he/she will advance if they continue to engage in the work assigned by students. If a Senior student was on track to graduate this Spring, he/she will graduate if they remain engaged in their school work through the rest of the school year.
 - b. **If a student chooses not to engage in any of the assigned work for the rest of the school year, he/she will not be issued credit for the course(s) in which work was not completed.** We cannot stress enough the need for all students to know that they are required to continue working through their school work as if school was still in session in the building. Simply put, if a student does not do the work, he/she will not receive credit for second semester classes.

2. Delivery of Materials

- a. **E-Learning:** Students with access to the internet at home will engage in our e-learning method of delivery for all educational materials unless an IEP or 504 plan requires paper copies to be sent home. School-issued chromebook devices have been distributed to families that requested a device.
- Teachers will use online platforms such as Schoology, Gmail, Zoom video chats, Google Drive...etc to deliver content and communicate with students.
 - In order to make this process easier for families, the Middle High School has posted a [Remote Learning Dashboard](#) on our district webpage under the e-learning tab or at www.rivervalleyschools.org/elearning. This is a one-stop location for students to locate the class period they wish to find the online classroom for and simply click the link to take them to the Schoology page for that class. A screenshot of this tool is located below.

River Valley Middle/High School			
Office Hours List (Click Here)			
DIRECTIONS: Please click on the link for each of your assigned classes to access daily assignments and learning tasks.			
QUESTIONS? Please email your individual teachers or Mr. Breen at pbreen@rivervalleyschools.org			
ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS	MATH	SOCIAL STUDIES	SCIENCE
Ms. Church	Mrs. DeRosa (Mr. Hanchey)	Ms. VK	Mr. Bertrand
English 11 1st Hr	Math 6 - 2nd Hr	World History 7 - 1st Hr	Science 8 1st Hr
Language 8 3rd Hr	Math 8 - 3rd Hr	Cultural Studies - 3rd Hr	Science 6 2nd Hr
Language 8 4th Hr	Math 6 - 4th Hr	World History 7 - 4th Hr	Science 7 3rd Hr
English 11 5th Hr	Math 8 - 5th Hr	World Geography 6 - 5th Hr	Science 8 4th Hr
English 12 6th Hr	Math Skills 7 - 6th Hr	World Geography 6 - 6th Hr	Science 6 6th Hr
Mrs. Balling	Mr. Gedert	Ms. Fambro	Mrs. Kaniuga
HS English 1st Hr	Geometry - 1st Hr	Social Studies 8 1st Hr	Forensic Science 2nd hour
HS English 3rd Hr	Geometry - 2nd Hr	AP World His 2nd Hr	APES 3rd hour
MS English 8 3rd Hr	Calculus - 4th Hr	World His 4th Hr	Biology 4th hour
MS English 6 4th Hr	Geometry - 5th Hr	Social Studies 8 5th Hr	Biology 5th hour
MS English 7 5th Hr	Pre-Calculus - 6th Hr	World His 6th Hr	Biology 6th hour
HS English 6th Hr	Mrs. Essig	Mrs. Martinez	Ms. Szilagyi
Mrs. Kubaszyk	Math 8 - 1st Hr	Ap US History	Physical Science 1st hour
English 10 1st Hr	Pre-Algebra - 1st Hr	US His 2nd Hr	Physics 2nd hour
English 9 2nd Hr	Math 6 - 2nd Hr	Government 4th Hr	Chemistry 3rd hour
English 10 3rd Hr	Math 7 - 4th Hr	Government 5th Hr	Physical Science 4th hour
English 9 4th Hr	Algebra - 5th Hr	US His 6th Hr	7th grade science 5th hour
College English 6th Hr	Ms. Drews		
Screenshot inson	Math Skills 6 - 1st Hr		

- Teachers will also hold “Office Hours” for students that have questions or need help. There is a link to the [Office Hour Schedule](#) on the Remote Learning Dashboard at the top of the screen to see when each teacher is available for help. These time slots are times the specific teachers have guaranteed to be available via email, video chat, and/or phone call for any questions or concerns on the school work.
- b. **Paper Materials Mailed Home:** For families without access to the internet at home, or if an IEP or 504 plan requires this accommodation, paper packets will be mailed home each week on Mondays. This packet will include materials from all of the student’s teachers for the week. Inside this packet will be a postmarked return envelope. Once the week’s work is completed by the student, the student will place all of the paper materials in the return envelope and place it in the mail to be returned to the school. There is no need to pay for any postage as the return envelope has postage paid for and is marked with a return label with the school’s address.

3. Due Dates and Timelines:

- a. For the remainder of the school year, each Monday, new materials will be posted online or mailed home for students to review and complete. Some items will be quick and simple tasks that might not take very long to complete while others might be more project-based and require students to complete them over a longer time span. **All due dates will be clearly communicated by teachers for all items.** Generally speaking, work will be issued and completed on a weekly basis, however, as stated above, certain items might require a custom window for completion. Students need to review all instructions, including due dates, carefully.
 - i. It is worth noting that items in mail-home packets will have some flexibility based on distribution and return mail travel times.
- b. **Materials Assigned prior to the March 13th school closure.** Some assignments were assigned during the week leading up to the last day we were physically in school, March 13th. Also, some assessments and retakes were scheduled to happen but were interrupted due to the school closure. Teachers will have the flexibility to decide what is needed to collect for a grade and what can be excused. **If a retake of an assessment was previously scheduled, the teacher will provide an alternative mode of assessment for the retake. Any item that was not already scheduled to be retaken cannot be retaken at this point.** We must focus on what lies ahead to salvage the remaining curriculum as best as possible.
 - i. **All items assigned, or scheduled to be retaken, prior to the March 13th school closure must be completed and turned in to the teacher by Friday, May1, 2020.**
- c. **Materials Assigned After April 13th** are required to be completed and returned to teachers. Assessment of learning will also be required. We will not be offering retakes of assessments moving forward for the rest of the year for logistical reasons, however, teachers have been asked to offer ways to recover credit by having assessment reflections, test corrections, summary statements...etc to demonstrate understanding after an assessment.
 - i. **We understand this is a very difficult situation for all, so teachers will be very flexible as we work with your student(s). We understand everyone's household is different with varied access to resources and time. With this understanding, we will do our best to not overwhelm students with work and will be as flexible/patient as possible as we navigate through this together.**

4. Grading and Credits

- a. All middle school (grades 6-8) courses will operate on a credit/no credit basis as these courses do not show up on high school transcripts.
- b. The decision to display credit/no credit vs. letter grades for second semester courses on high school transcripts was a difficult one. While credit/no credit can simplify things in a difficult time to a pass/fail threshold for all classes, it does not recognize the hard work students may put in to earn the highest achievement possible. We celebrate academic achievement and prioritize learning/working hard in education so we believe a credit/no credit approach alone was not sufficient. In a world with competitive scholarships,

college admissions, class rankings...etc, we want to give students participating in these programs the opportunity to remain competitive. That said, we will implement a hybrid approach to our high school courses.

- i. By default, **all second semester high school courses will receive a credit/no credit mark on transcripts unless the student chooses to have his/her grades displayed on the transcript.** Credit/no credit marks do not calculate into a student's GPA. In other words, it neither helps, nor hurts, the student's GPA.
- ii. If a student wants his/her grades to be reflected on the transcript, he/she will either have all of their grades for second semester reflected on the transcript, or none. A student cannot pick and choose which courses they want calculated into the GPA. This is an "all" or "none" decision. The student will communicate (via email) with Mr. Shaffer, the school Guidance Counselor, if they choose to have their letter grades displayed.

1. **Exception: All Advanced Placement (AP) Courses and Dual Enrollment/Direct Credit Courses will have the letter grade displayed on the transcript.** The weighted GPA scale will also be applied for these courses, as usual.

- c. **If a student was failing a course prior to the COVID-19 shutdown,** he/she still has the opportunity to recover that grade by engaging in the assigned school work beginning April 13th.
- d. Teachers will collect work and grade it as they normally would if school was in session. Grades will continue to be entered into PowerSchool and a letter grade will be displayed throughout the rest of the school year. The grade will turn to a credit/no credit mark at the very end of the semester unless the student requests the letter grade to be displayed.
- e. **No semester exams** will be given for second semester courses. Normally, the second semester grade is made up of 80% semester work and 20% exam grade. This has been changed to 100% semester work with no exam grade.
- f. A minimum grade of 60% is required for students to receive credit for a course.

5. Social and Emotional Needs

- a. Our Student Services department is still working to provide for the social and emotional needs of all students. Mrs. Kickert, our school Social Worker, and Mr. Shaffer, our Guidance Counselor, are available via email and also have office hours posted on the office hours document online. Mrs. Kickert has set up a phone number she can be reached at as well which is 269-262-1772. In addition, a [Community Resources](#) page has been created and linked to our district webpage.
- b. Periodically, we will send out videos to help continue to engage students in our character education series we do throughout the school year. These videos touch on these and messages relevant to teens, especially during this pandemic.

6. Communication

- a. It is imperative that students and parents/guardians stay in constant communication with the school throughout the rest of the school year. If you are not receiving schoolmessenger communication, please be sure to have your information in PowerSchool up to date and correct. I have included the link to setting up your School Messenger account here:
<https://rivervalleyschools.org/wp-content/uploads/SchoolMessenger.pdf>

7. Textbooks and School Materials Needed

- a. If your student(s) need items from his/her locker, Principal Breen will be scheduling days for a parent to come retrieve those items from the student's locker.
 - i. **The next day this will happen is Monday, April 13th from Noon - 2:00 pm.**

Finally, I want to thank everyone in advance for their cooperation through this difficult transition. Nobody expected to be spending the final few months of school locked down in our homes intentionally distanced from each other. The staff at the MHS misses all of you and is devastated that we could not celebrate learning and everything that comes with the RV experience in the Spring. That said, we are committed to doing whatever it takes to make the most of the situation. The greatest benefit to a small school community is the relationships we build with everyone that comes through our doors and sits in our desks. We care for each one of you and it is because of these relationships that we will make it through this and in many ways be stronger than ever.

I ask that we all have patience with each other as we figure out how to recreate education on the fly. I can attest that our teaching staff did not get into education to sit behind a computer screen. They all value the human interaction when they teach your children. This is difficult for them as it is difficult for the students to try to focus at home on learning with so many distractions and obstacles. We understand. We will be as flexible as possible. All we ask is that everyone shows GRIT and determination to give their best and make the most of the situation. We are RV and we can do this!

If you have any questions about the Continuity of Learning plan, please email Principal Breen at pbreen@rivervalleyschools.org or call 269-765-7604 and leave a voicemail.

#WeAreRV #RVshowsGRIT #YouDecide

In Education,

Patrick Breen

Patrick Breen

River Valley Middle High School Principal