



## **Montgomery Elementary School Continuity of Education Plan**

### **The Flexible Instructional School Day**

During the time period of the Flexible Instructional Days (FID), all Montgomery Elementary School students in grades PreK-6th grade will continue instruction via a variety of instructional methods, tools and teacher-led instruction through their remote learning devices during normal school hours. Students in grades K-6 will be taking home their Chromebooks. Daily instruction in all content areas will continue to occur for all students during the FID.

Office hours for teachers will occur between the hours of 7:35AM-3:05PM Monday through Friday, where students and parents may contact their child's teacher with any questions. Schoology will be used to provide instruction during FID days. Synchronous and asynchronous Zoom sessions will be available.

### **Attendance during Flexible Instructional Days**

Student attendance during the FID will be determined daily on school days. A student's attendance will be based on accessing all course materials and turning in assignments. If it is deemed that a student is not actively participating in their schooling during the FID, the student's parents will be notified. School administration, the school counselor, teachers and the school social worker will reach out to families to assist in ensuring that work is completed. Extreme cases of non-compliance with the attendance policy during the time period of FID may also result in unexcused absences and/or contact from our Children and Youth Liaison to set up an attendance meeting. In addition, the student's course grades will also reflect their participation and attendance in their courses.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is a Flexible Instructional Day (FID)?**

The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) approved the use of Flexible Instructional Days (FID) as an alternate form of instruction in place of a day otherwise cancelled due to inclement weather or other emergency. This is a logical choice given the vast amount of technology available to students of the Montgomery Area School District. The FID will be held on the day(s) of the building closure. On a FID, students will complete learning assignments provided by the teacher at home on the day that otherwise would have been cancelled. Students will receive assignments for each subject that would have originally taken place during a regular school day. Students will be expected to attend scheduled Zoom sessions for direct instruction.

### **How will parents and students find the FID learning activities and assignments?**

Classroom teachers will provide the learning assignments, activities, and online resources through our Schoology platform. Parents and/or students should make teachers aware of a need for a paper copy version of the assignment if WiFi will not be available on the FID. For a prolonged period of closure, a paper copy version of the assignment will be provided to the student.

### **What if a student does not have access to a computer and/or internet to access the lesson or complete activities?**

Teachers will be in communication with families to consult on the availability of wifi in the home. If wifi is not available, hard copies of resources will be provided and mailed home for the student. The teacher will provide the office with paper copies of the learning activities and assignments. The office will ensure that these activities are delivered to the student's home. Students will have the week to complete the required learning activities and assignments. The district is also pursuing options to provide temporary mobile hotspots to students who have been identified as not having WiFi at home.

## **Will students have assignments and activities for their special classes such as music?**

Students will be expected to complete lessons for classes that are typically scheduled to include specials in physical education/health, art, music and library.

## **What happens if a student does not complete the FID assignments?**

Elementary school students may lose the point value or grade for the assignment. This loss of points could negatively impact a student's marking period grade. Each teacher weighs learning activities and assignments differently. It would be in the best interest of the student to complete the assignments within the designated window. Failure to complete assignments will negatively impact attendance and student grades. School administration, the school counselor, teachers and the school social worker will reach out to families to assist in ensuring that work is completed. Extreme cases of non-compliance with the attendance policy during the time period of FID may also result in unexcused absences and/or contact from our Children and Youth Liaison to set up an attendance meeting.

## **How much time is my student expected to take to complete the assignments?**

Teachers will design learning activities and assignments that are equivalent to time spent on a similar activity on a regularly scheduled class period. Students working independently on an assignment will likely take less time to complete the assignment compared to a large group setting. Teachers will make every effort to assign an approximate time to each activity or assignment.

## **What if there is only one computer in the house but multiple students?**

Students may need to share resources in the home or other locations. Some students may want to work on offline options while others complete online assignments.

Elementary school students will be expected to use the district-assigned Chromebook, which should help to alleviate the demand on the home computer. Students have the ability to request an offline version of the learning activities and assignments. That is only available in the absence of WiFi in the home.

## **May a student access the assignments or complete the online assignments from their smartphone?**

Teacher assignments can be accessed from a variety of tablets, smartphones, laptops and desktop computers. The assignments may use a variety of websites and applications that may or may not work from a variety of devices.

## **What will happen with regard to special education services?**

Students with disabilities will continue to be educated during a school closure the same as their non-disabled peers and as indicated in their Individualized Education Plan (IEP). Students will receive accommodations and modifications in the general education curriculum as outlined in their IEP to the maximum extent possible while participating in flexible instructional opportunities available to all students. Special education teachers will conduct small group sessions with students having an IEP to support student progress towards IEP goals. Special education teachers will remain in contact with students, families, and general education teachers during the closure.

Direct special education and related services, which are not available via flexible learning opportunities, will be provided to those students following the regular 2020-2021 school term. Amount and type of services provided will be determined based on special education support indicated in the students' IEP.

MTSS framework of interventions and supports will remain in place during FID.

## **What will happen with regard to school counseling services?**

School counseling services will be available during the time period of the FID. Parents and students must initiate contact with the school counselor, Tara Condit, via email [tcondit@montasd.org](mailto:tcondit@montasd.org). Sessions may occur using telephone or online technologies.

## **Preventive Measures**

While the risk of developing coronavirus remains low for most healthy individuals, the Montgomery Area School District is committed to protecting the health and well-being of our community.

Coronavirus is transmitted like the common flu virus and can be easily eliminated with good cleaning and personal hygiene practices. Common symptoms for coronavirus include, but are not limited to fever, cough and/or shortness of breath.

The PA Department of Health encourages schools to increase education on ways to protect yourself from illnesses such as the cold, flu and also the coronavirus:

- **Wash** hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- **Cover** any coughs or sneezes with your elbow, do not use your hands!
- **Clean** surfaces frequently, such as countertops, light switches, cell phones and other frequently touched areas.
- **Contain** - if you are sick, stay home until you are feeling better. Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

For your information, additional related resources can be found by clicking on the links below:

[CDC Coronavirus Information](#)

[CDC Coronavirus Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[PA Department of Health Coronavirus Website](#)

[World Health Organization Information About Coronavirus](#)