

## Mason City High School Learning Update

4-10-20

Dear MCHS parents,

With the announcement of the extended school closure until the end of April, the district has continued to work hard to be responsive to our students' needs. Our top priority remains focused first on everyone's health and safety. Following expectations set forth by the Governor and Iowa Department of Education, our district's decision is to follow the Voluntary Educational Enrichment Opportunities. Here is a summary of what that means for our high school students.

### **Voluntary Educational Enrichment Opportunities:**

Students will be offered online opportunities as well as printed materials if requested. A new learning opportunity will be provided at the start of each week from each course/content area offered at the high school. Participation is voluntary and no grading or credit is given per the direction from the department of education. All teachers at the high school will hold virtual office hours for two hours daily. Teachers will be available to answer questions and provide feedback on student learning.

### **Advanced Placement Courses:**

AP exams will still be offered this year. AP is changing the format of their exams so students can take these online. Students have been provided flexibility to withdraw from taking the AP exam if they choose due to changes and extended school closures. AP teachers are able to continue providing material and learning options in preparation for the AP exam, but may NOT grade any material for credit during the school closure. Adjustments will be made by the district to be flexible so all students can be successful and receive HS credit.

### **NIACC Concurrent Enrollment Courses:**

NIACC concurrent enrollment courses have all been modified to an online format and have continued during the school closure. Instructors remain in communication with their students for expectations required to complete the course for credit. Successful completion of the course(s) is graded and will continue to count for both college and high school credit.

### **Credit Recovery Courses:**

Credit recovery courses fall under the guidance from the Department of Education as acceptable to continue during the school closure. This means any student currently enrolled in a credit recovery class will have access opened up to complete their course. Your student may reach out to connect with their teacher for any questions they may have to help support the completion of their course for credit.

**Make-up Work:**

Students who were failing a class prior to the school closure will have the opportunity to complete make-up work in the course(s) they were failing. This makeup work is voluntary and cannot be graded while school is closed in accordance with guidance from the Department of Education. Students are encouraged to take advantage of these opportunities as we will be able to use this in consideration for awarding credit once we are back in session. Students will receive feedback from their teachers on their work. Students can communicate with their teacher for clarification on what makeup work is provided as an option.

**Grades/Credits:**

No grades can be given or entered into the grade book while school is closed. We recognize flexibility must be considered at this time. Teachers will modify their curriculum and make adjustments to assessments to ensure students are provided opportunities to be successful. Local school districts are provided the ability to make decisions about how credits are awarded. We continue to have conversations regarding the best way to determine credit.

This information has been added to the [MCHS FAQ Document](#). We recognize our students, families, and staff have much on their plates due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our goal is to continue evaluating the needs of our students to be responsive to their health, safety, and educational needs. We are confident and committed to the success of all!

Thank you,

Dan Long  
Principal, MCHS