

# Montgomery Blair High School

Renay Johnson, Principal April 2020

## *Hello Montgomery Blair High School Families,*

My staff and I miss our 3259 Blazers! I hope that you are well. I know that this is a challenging time for many of our families, students and staff. The uncertainty of when we will return to our school, work, and our active lives has caused tremendous anxiety for our students and staff.

Our counselors have been contacting students to check in with them and have created a user friendly newsletter with contact information for students and families at this link,

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/108FrTz8\\_4l9m3N2h1800cC23fPA\\_AJ0c/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/108FrTz8_4l9m3N2h1800cC23fPA_AJ0c/view).

“Technology will not replace great teachers but technology in the hands of great teachers can be transformational.”

George Couros

I want you to know that our leadership team has been planning with teachers to identify meaningful instructional activities for your teen while they are home for an extended period of time. Montgomery County Public Schools has developed **Continuity of Learning Plans and Resources for students and parents. Please click this link for more information,**

<https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/coronavirus/continuity-of-learning/>.

Montgomery Blair High School Distance Learning Schedule by period is here, .

<https://mbhs.edu/newsevents/Announcements/MBHS%20Distance%20Learning%20Schedule.pdf>

If you have concerns and need to reach your teen's teacher, resource teacher, counselor or grade level administrator, here is the link for our staff directory,

[https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/directory/directory\\_Boxschool.aspx?processlevel=04757](https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/directory/directory_Boxschool.aspx?processlevel=04757).

The third marking period will end on April 17.

Thank you for your patience as staff learns the new online platforms to educate our Blazers while caring for young children, elderly parents, and ill family members.

## *MCPS Communication with Families:*

Please review the communication(s) from MCPS. This document is a quick reference summary and does not include all of the details.

MCPS Continuity of Learning (COL) Webpage- [Continuity of Learning webpage](#)

## MCPS Communication:

- MCPS held a virtual conversation on phase one of the continuity of learning plan. If you missed the conversation, you can watch it here in English: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JbTrMkVxaf0&feature=youtu.be> and here in Spanish: <https://www.youtube.com/user/MCPSTVespanol>.
- [March 28 MCPS Email to students and parents \(corrected 3/27 version\)](#).
- [March 27 MCPS Email to families about special education, ESOL, and 504 implementation](#)



### *Chromebook and Wifi Devices for Students:*

We understand that some students were not able to retrieve a Chromebook and/or do not have access to WiFi. To ensure all of our students have access, please complete the following form:

<https://forms.gle/RwNmn67RoCmVqa8Z9> if either a Chromebook and/or WiFi is needed.

There will be communication provided from MCPS regarding the distribution of Chromebooks and WiFi access to students and families.



### *Grab & Go Meals:*

MCPS is providing grab & go meals at over 40 sites. Montgomery Blair High School is a grab & go meal site. Students and parents can pick up FREE lunch at Blair Monday - Friday, 11:00 - 1:00, in the cafeteria parking lot. For a list of other meals sites, please click this link,

<https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/coronavirus/meals/#emergencymeals>

### *Class of 2020:*

Many Seniors have contacted me to see if we will still have Prom and Graduation. At this time, Maryland schools are closed through April 24. We are still scheduled to have our Prom on May 16 and our Graduation on June 1. If school closure is extended, and our events are postponed, we will notify you as soon as possible.

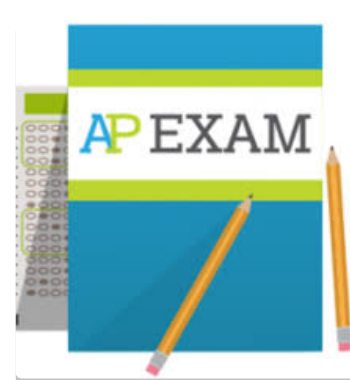


We are waiting additional guidance from the [Maryland State Department of Education required assessment for graduation](#).

High school students will continue to receive instruction and need to complete assignments in all of the courses in which they were enrolled prior to school closure through the Continuity of Learning model. School teams will continue to monitor progress of all seniors to ensure they are on track for graduation. MCPS is committed to taking every step possible to minimize the impact on students and to ensure that students have the opportunity to earn credits and our seniors are able to graduate.

### *AP Exams*

College Board has implemented a new testing administration procedure for May 2020. Updated information with details on the AP exam for each course, special education accommodations, and technology requirements necessary to take the test at home can be found at:



<https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/about-ap/news-changes/coronavirus-update>

AP Exam administrations will take place May 11-22, with exam start times between 12PM and 4PM. Students who have a conflict because of other events or because of extended time accommodations must contact Ms. Blaha at [Leslie\\_V\\_Blahamcpcsmd.org](mailto:Leslie_V_Blahamcpcsmd.org) to request a makeup exam time. Makeup exams, which will take place from June 1-5, must be approved by College Board.

Students will also get updates about specific test formats for each course from their teachers.

Students who do not have access to the internet or a device that can access the internet (cell phone, tablet, laptop, or desktop) should go to [cb.org/tech](http://cb.org/tech) by April 24 to receive aid.

All of the exams will consist of free response questions. Students will need to hand write or type their responses, photograph them, and then upload them during the 45 minute testing window. College Board is developing simulations so students can practice this process.

All AP teachers will receive copies of their students' responses by May 26. These responses can be used in the calculation of course grades for 4th quarter.

### Montgomery College Dual Enrollment:

High school students enrolled in college courses at Montgomery College (MC) should [follow communications about remote learning sent by Montgomery College](#). If students need support in communicating with the instructor, completing assignments, or technology, they should contact their home high school counselor or dual enrollment program assistant.



### Student Service Learning Hours:

The deadline for seniors to turn in SSL hours has been moved to April 22, 2020. The required hours for the Certificate of Meritorious Service has been prorated to 240 SSL hours. SSL forms can be emailed to [Beth\\_S\\_Sanchez@mcpdmd.org](mailto:Beth_S_Sanchez@mcpdmd.org). For updates to SSL requirements and SSL opportunities please join the MBHS SSL Google Classroom. Code: dsvhi5r

Unfortunately, we are currently unable to offer SSL hours to students who are completing service within private spaces, which would include any virtual service. While we deeply appreciate your energy and effort in considering how students can earn SSL hours right now, we must still adhere to the MCPS SSL guidelines, which

states that **all service conducted for SSL hours must be completed under the direct supervision of a representative from a nonprofit in a public space.**

We are waiting to hear additional updates from state and local school officials regarding the SSL graduation requirement and providing access to SSL opportunities for our students. We'll be sure to send out updates as soon as any decisions are made.



### *ESOL Services:*

ESOL teachers have been working diligently all week to make contact with each of our 400+ students to ensure that they are ready to access to online learning. Many students are still in need of Chromebooks and internet, so we're standing by to disseminate distribution details as soon as we get them. Through the collaboration and support of our wonderful counselors, pupil personnel worker, and parent-community coordinator, we are communicating with families to offer what supports we can during this difficult time.

Looking forward, the ESOL Department is excited to resume teaching and learning and is exploring all the digital ways to practice reading, writing, listening, and speaking, in order to ensure that all of our Language-Learner Blazers continue to receive English Language Development services.

Ms. Tess Hiller,  
ESOL Resource Teacher  
[Theresa\\_M\\_Hiller@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Theresa_M_Hiller@mcpsmd.org)

### *Special Education Services:*

The Special Education Department is committed to providing continuous support, guidance, and specialized instruction designed for students receiving services as we transition to a virtual teaching platform. An individualized plan will be created to address student learning needs. The proposed plan will include goals, services, accommodations, and supplementary aids and services for each student. The Special Education team will focus on the highest priorities regarding student goals and identify goals that can be sustained during the current setting. The identified goals be will addressed and monitored during the virtual learning platform while providing opportunities for students to gain access and make progress towards curriculum indicators. Case managers will provide parents and guardians with the proposed plan for each student as soon as possible.



All IEP meetings scheduled prior to April 24th will be held virtually. Members of the Special Education department will directly contact each family to reschedule meetings and to discuss the manner to how future meetings will be held. Ongoing communication with parents, guardians, and students will be continuous to ensure collaboration towards student achievement.

Ms. Terel Reid



### *Your Character Counts:*

With the new MCPS Continuity of Learning Framework, you teen will be online daily. It is important that teens are appropriate on social media and other digital platforms. Please visit this link to learn about the using digital tools in a respectful and appropriate manner. <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/digital-citizenship/index.html#students>

### *Media Center News:*

During this extended school closure, the media center staff is preparing materials for teachers and updating access to services to help students get what they need to succeed. Ms. Lamphier and the media center staff are taking online training and are updating [the website](#) to meet the needs of the Blair community. [Andrea Lamphier](#), Media Specialist, will hold **Virtual Office Hours: 9:00 am to 11:00 am & 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm, Monday - Friday**. What does that mean for students? Ms. Lamphier can help students find eBooks and eAudiobooks if they are available to support learning or pleasure reading. She can help students onto the Testing and Education Reference Center for help with Test Prep (but please, not too much screen time, Blazers)! Ms. Lamphier can also help students with [Turntin.com](#), or other Blair electronic products. Please feel free to ask for help! Parents, if you need help with any media center products, please email Ms. Lamphier. She can help with the Parent Portal requests too!



### *Spring Blazer Student Athletes:*

I hope you are all doing well in these very difficult and trying times. You are missed tremendously by me, your administration, your coaches and your community (especially the neighbors who love our warm up music). You are thought about every day. When we met before the shut down occurred, we talked about being quality people, then students, then athletes. Always in that order. Take on this incredible personal challenge and use it to make yourself better. Show up right now by doing those things that make you, your family, your team and your community better with safety being our top priority. As athletes, we have built skills for resiliency and challenge and it is during these times that we need those skills. I am in touch with your coaches and am in the process of developing some ideas that can get us through this together. My major hope is to recognize all of our seniors however we can and have some level of athletics program throughout and at the end of the crisis. Know that we are all here for you; no question is irrelevant, no need is too small and no struggle is unimportant. I will be in touch soon about any and all next steps. In the meantime, take care of yourselves, endure, laugh, and believe that we will all get through this better than ever before.



Rita J. Boule  
Athletic Director  
Montgomery Blair High School  
[Rita\\_J\\_Boule@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Rita_J_Boule@mcpsmd.org)  
*Go Blazers!*



### *Music News:*

Before we left school, Tri-M Music Honor Society helped us celebrate Music in Our Schools Month with lunch performances from Chamber Choir, Jazz Ensemble, and Chamber Orchestra. Symphonic Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra, Symphonic Band, and Wind Ensemble all received straight Superior ratings at the MCPS District II High School Band and Orchestra Assessments. The Marine Band String Quartet performed a special concert for our music students on March 12.

Because of the COVID-19 virus, our annual Community Music Festival and Swingin' Sounds for Senior Citizens events could not take place.

NINE Blair Orchestra students represented our school in the Maryland All State Jr. Orchestra in Towson. Unfortunately, the TWENTY SEVEN additional students who qualified for All State Jr. Band, Sr. Band, and Sr. Orchestra were unable to participate due to the COVID-19 virus. We are very proud of these students' efforts!

Ms. Roberts and Mr. Oldham

Dear Students,

I miss you! I hope you are all well, and look forward to getting starting with remote musical learning and discovery. Please stay tuned to your Google Classrooms for updates and please contact me if you need anything at all to help you in your e-learning. [Isabel\\_hernandez-cata@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Isabel_hernandez-cata@mcpsmd.org) or @mshcmusic on twitter.

Ms. Hernandez-Cata

### *Spring Musical*

We are staying optimistic about the musical. We have been doing some virtual rehearsals. Thank goodness for our awesome assistant directors, who are making sure that rehearsals happen--I've heard from a couple of cast members that they run lines with each other every day. So yes, it will happen, in whatever form is possible when we return to some semblance of normalcy! Our concern is for our outstanding seniors, who have been so instrumental in our theatre program over the last four years; we want to make sure that the show happens for them.



Ms. O'Connor  
Theatre Director

## *Field Trip Refunds:*

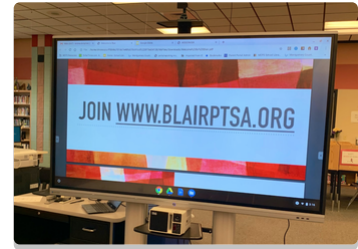
As you know, many school field trips have been canceled. Your teachers or school sponsors have given us the list of students who need a refund. We will process refunds when our business office reopens and mail them to your homes if school closures extend past April 24.



## *PTSA*

Hello Blair Families,

We hope you are safe and healthy during these uncertain times. We know you have a lot of questions and concerns around the impact of COVID-19 on the academic year at Blair. Blair PTSA will hold a virtual meeting this coming Tuesday, April 7th, at 6:00pm to try to address some of those concerns. Please submit your questions by Monday, April 6th, via the following feedback form:



Blair PTSA / Meeting Questions & Feedback

<https://forms.gle/2Q52QuiTyTpTwP5S9>

The virtual meeting will be conducted via the Zoom link below. You MUST RSVP to [president@blairptsa.org](mailto:president@blairptsa.org) by 5pm on Tuesday, April 7th, to receive the password to access the meeting. Please include your full name in your RSVP; we will check that the name you enter in Zoom matches the name in your RSVP before you are allowed to enter the meeting.

Blair PTSA Meeting | Tuesday, April 7th, 6:00pm

<https://zoom.us/j/239193880>

We look forward to connecting with you!

Mariama Orange,

PTSA President

[president@blairptsa.org](mailto:president@blairptsa.org)

## *Student Services Staff:*

Ms. Makeyda Soriano, Resource Counselor, [Makeyda\\_A\\_Soriano@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Makeyda_A_Soriano@mcpsmd.org)

Ms. Melissa Young, Latino Achievement Coordinator, Volunteer Coordinator, and MyMCPS Parent Support: [Melissa\\_Young@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Melissa_Young@mcpsmd.org)

Ms. Monique Keane-King, Pupil Personnel Worker, [Monique\\_Keene-King@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Monique_Keene-King@mcpsmd.org)

Ms. Farzaneh Nabavian, Parent Community Coordinator, [Farzaneh\\_Nabavian@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Farzaneh_Nabavian@mcpsmd.org)

Ms. Anisa Harris, School Nurse, [Anisa\\_Harris@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Anisa_Harris@mcpsmd.org)

Mr. Darryl Cooper, School Security Team Leader, [Darryl\\_J\\_Cooper@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Darryl_J_Cooper@mcpsmd.org)

Counseling Assignments		Counseling Office: 301-649-2810
Student's Last Name Begins With:	Counselor	
A-BI	Ms. Raolat Agbedina	
Bm-C	Mr. Kirk Simms	
D-F	Mr. Kareef Overton	
G-He	Ms. Emily Putney	
Hf-La	Mr. Timothy Rossini	
Lb-Mg	Ms. Mackenzie Cho	
Mh-Pe	Mr. Alphonso Burwell	
Pf-Sa	Ms. Antia Reddicks	
Sb-Ts	Ms. Rachel Greene	
Tt-Z	Ms. Belvey Russ	
METS and ESOL 1-3 Students	Ms. Lia Contreras	
ESOL 4-5	Ms. Jennifer Poole	

#### MBHS Administration

Mrs. Renay Johnson	Principal
Dr. Nicole Allain	Assistant Principal Grade 12
Ms. Adriana Burgos	Assistant Principal Grade 11
Ms. Brandi Richardson	Assistant Principal Grade 10 (A – O)
Mr. Dirk Cauley	Assistant Principal Grade 9 (A – O)
Mr. Joseph Fanning	Assistant Principal Grade 9 & 10 (P- Z)
Mr. Peter Ostrander	Administrator for CAP & Magnet Programs
Mrs. Lavina Carrillo	Administrator for ESOL and METS Programs
Mr. James Funk	Business Administrator

### MCPS Summer Programs:

Although there is some uncertainty beyond April 24, planning for summer programs is continuing during this time.



The application period for summer school teaching positions in [Regional Summer School](#), originally scheduled to begin March 31, is on hold. We will provide updates in this FAQ and the [Regional Summer School](#) page when the application window for summer school teaching positions opens.

The student application process for all summer program courses, both daily face-to-face and online, is scheduled to begin on April 20 but may be subject to change. See [Summer School Course Application](#) for updates and information.

Planning for various middle school summer camps is also moving forward at this time. Registration for [Montgomery Can Code](#) has closed and families will be notified by central office about next steps for registration.. The registration process for the [Middle School Career Readiness Summer Camps](#) is scheduled to begin on April 6, but may be subject to change







# Montgomery Blair High School

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 @blairprincipal

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 [mbhs.edu/](http://mbhs.edu/)

