



MASSAPEQUA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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March 18, 2020

We hope this email finds you and your family healthy. We thank our educators for their dedication and commitment during this public health crisis. We also thank our parents and community members for their patience and flexibility during these challenging times.

This letter serves as an update regarding the facilitation of committee on special education (and committee on preschool special education) meetings and the implementation of special education instruction and related services for students with disabilities. This information is subject to change based on ongoing guidance from the local, state, and federal government. The District administration, faculty and staff have been working diligently to establish plans in order to maintain consistency of programs, services and supports to the greatest extent possible during this extended closure.

CPSE & CSE MEETINGS

- All CPSE and CSE meetings scheduled from Monday, March 16, 2020 - Friday, March 27, 2020 are cancelled and will be rescheduled for a later date. Parents/Guardians will be contacted at some point next week to reschedule.
- Beginning on March 30, 2020 and until further notice, all CPSE and CSE meetings, which were previously scheduled, will (with parent agreement) be conducted via Google Meet (using the audio only call-in feature).
 - Please note that a google invitation will be emailed to parents/guardians from the CPSE or CSE Chairperson prior to the meeting with the call-in phone number and access code.

SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Digital resources will be posted on the District website - www.msd.k12.ny.us this afternoon. Beginning on Monday, March 23, 2020, special education teachers will reach out to their families via telephone and/or email and/or other digital means with specific information regarding activities and resources for students based on IEP goals. Beginning on March 23, 2020, parents are encouraged to reach out to their child's teacher or related service provider with questions or concerns. **Please note that with the volume of emails coming in, it may take some time for these individuals to respond. We request your patience in this regard.**

- **STUDENTS w/ DISABILITIES in GENERAL EDUCATION CLASSES** For students with disabilities in the general education setting, including ICT classes, the special education teachers will provide modifications and check-in with students to provide individualized support to facilitate access to the general education curriculum. This may be accomplished using packets and/or online materials and fluid communication between teacher and student.
- **RESOURCE ROOM** Teachers will support students by providing supplemental content, summaries, review documents, IEP goal related activities and ongoing communication with students.
- **SPECIAL CLASSES FOR STUDENTS WITH INTENSIVE NEEDS** Materials and resources will be sent home via email and/or teacher-selected remote learning platforms and teachers will be in regular communication with parents to provide ongoing support.
- **SELF-CONTAINED 12:1:1, 12:1:2** Special Education teachers will provide remote instruction using a teacher-selected platform. Individual support will be provided for students through direct communication with the teacher.
- **OUT-OF-DISTRICT PLACEMENTS** Students in ODPs will receive communication from each school. Parents are encouraged to contact the specific school/program for more information.

RELATED SERVICES

<u>Related Service</u>	<u>Start Date</u>	<u>Description</u>
Occupational Therapy Physical Therapy	March 19	Consultation will be provided by telephone/digital platform to parents. Resources, based on IEP goals, will be shared through email.
Counseling	March 23	Consultation will be provided by telephone to parents for IEP/504 mandated students. If appropriate, resources based on IEP goals will be shared through email. At parent/provider discretion, the provider may contact the student directly.
Speech	March 23	Consultation will be provided by telephone to parents for IEP mandated students. If appropriate, resources based on IEP goals will be shared through email. For intensive needs classes, there will be more direct contact with parents.
Vision/Hearing/Orientation and Mobility	March 23	Consultation will be provided to staff working with students with vision, hearing, and orientation/mobility needs.
Behavioral Intervention Services	March 19	Consultation will be provided by telephone/digital platform for IEP mandated students. Resources based on IEP goals will be shared through email.

PRE-SCHOOL SERVICES

- **PRE-SCHOOL SERVICES** Effective on March 18, 2020, Nassau County has suspended special education services including SEIT, evaluations, related services and transportation. This suspension of services will remain in effect until April 1, 2020. The county will make a determination prior to April 1, 2020 regarding the continuation or cancellation of these closures. Makeups cannot be completed until the current closures are cancelled. Remote services are not yet approved for the delivery of EI or preschool services. When we receive an updated notification from Nassau County, we will inform the community.

SCHOOL-AGE HOME SERVICES

- **SCHOOL-AGE HOME SERVICES** Students who receive services at home as per their IEP will continue to receive such services remotely to the extent the assigned providers are ready/available to instruct remotely . We are in active communication with agencies in an effort to ensure provider availability. Face-to-face sessions have been suspended until further notice.

Parents are encouraged to reach out to their child's teacher and/or related services provider with questions or concerns; however, we request your patience as we take these significant steps in moving to a remote learning model. Moreover, parents are welcome to contact members of the special education leadership team:

- Mrs. Barshak - East Lake /Lockhart Supervisor, rbarshak@msd.k12.ny.us
- Mrs. Catalano - CPSE Chairperson, kcatalano@msd.k12.ny.us
- Mrs. DelGiorno - Birch Lane/Unqua Supervisor, sdelgiorno@msd.k12.ny.us
- Mrs. Helfand - Ames/Massapequa High School Supervisor, dhelfand@msd.k12.ny.us
- Mrs. Lenoci - Berner Middle School Supervisor, alenoci@msd.k12.ny.us
- Dr. Perretti - Out-of-District Placement Chairperson, jmazzottaperretti@msd.k12.ny.us
- Mrs. Provenzano - Secondary CSE Chairperson, mprovenzano@msd.k12.ny.us
- Mrs. Zedalis - Fairfield/McKenna Supervisor, mzedalis@msd.k12.ny.us

Since staff are not currently reporting to school, we respectfully request that parents utilize emails rather than phone calls as a means to contact us.

This public health crisis and the corresponding closure of schools have created a significant hardship on our students with disabilities and their families. Please know the District is working diligently to ensure that, to the greatest extent possible, each student with a disability can be provided the special education and related services identified in his or her IEP.

Thank you,

Jordan McCaw,
Executive Director for Pupil Personnel Services