

Dear Maple Street families,

In compliance with Governor Scott's decree, Maple Street will go to Virtual School beginning Tuesday, March 17. School will be CLOSED TO STUDENTS on Monday. Teachers will prepare home learning packets for all students on Monday morning. These will be available for pickup between noon and 5pm on Monday at school. If you cannot pickup within this window, please let me know, and I will arrange a pickup time with you.

The goal of this plan is to keep Maple Street students, staff, and families as well as our broader community as protected as possible from the spread of coronavirus.

Maple Street teachers are both nimble and steadfast in their commitment to doing what is best for our students. They have developed plans for virtual school that are developmentally appropriate and meaningful continuations of Maple Street education. An essential component of this plan is "eyes on" every student every school day. We know that this will be a disconcerting time for children and teachers are intent on providing the same consistency, comfort, and challenge during virtual school as they do during on-campus learning. Our relationships for learning will be as vibrant as ever.

Kelli Calder will directly contact the families of students who are receiving support through the Learning Center about how their work will continue during virtual school.

Specialists will publish regular bulletins with activities for students to do at home.

All students in Grades 3-8 have school devices for use during virtual school.. Younger students will need more adult support to connect to virtual school, and it may be simpler to use an adult's device. If students in Kindergarten- Grade 2 do not have access to a device, please let Jonathan Jacobs know. If your family has trouble with internet connectivity, please let Jonathan Jacobs know.

Attendance will be taken every day. If your child will miss virtual school or is sick, please notify your homeroom teacher and Kristen Bowen.

Here is a broad overview of virtual school. Homeroom teachers will be in touch with you shortly to clarify the details of our plan.`

Kindergarten-Grade 2

Parents will receive a class plan for the day by 4:00pm the previous day. They should continue to be available to check their email during the day in the event of any changes to the schedule.

K-2 students will participate in full-class morning meetings via Google Meet each morning. Second grade will meet starting at 8:15, first grade at 8:45, and kindergarten at 9:15 for approximately 30 minutes. During this time teachers will go over the schedule for the day, provide instructions for the day's activities, and answer questions. In addition, individualized conference times will be set up for each student every day..

Grades 3 and 4

Students will begin each day with a full class check-in via Google Meeting at 8:15 AM with either Ms. Chaffee or Mrs. Thomson. They will be able to sign-in as early as 8:00 AM. During the morning check-in teachers will review the schedule for the day, provide instructions for the day's activities, and answer questions. At least one other full class check-in, and an end of the day wrap-up will occur on a daily basis. In addition, individualized and/or small group conference times will be set up as lessons warrant. Classroom agendas will be sent out by 4:00 PM the previous day.

Upper School

Upper school students will attend school in the virtual classroom from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm. They should expect to receive a meeting code from their homeroom teacher by 8:00 am each morning. After a brief homeroom period to meet and organize, students will attend their core classes and languages. Homeroom teachers will be sending specific schedules as well as instructions and expectations to students and parents. Core class teachers will also be contacting their students with specific course information. During virtual school, students are expected to be at their computers at the prescribed times, and all assignments will be considered ungraded, formative assessments meant for students to monitor self-progress with frequent teacher check-in.

Here is the students' schedule:

8:00-8:15	Homeroom
8:15-8:55	8th Math 7th History 6th Science 5th English
8:55-9:35	8th English 7th Math 6th History 5th Science
9:35-10:00	Break
10:00-10:40	8th Science 7th English 6th Math 5th History
10:40-11:20	8th History 7th Science 6th English 5th Math
11:20-12:00	Language Monday 5th French Tuesday 6th French Wed 7th

	French/Spanish Thur 8th French/Spanish	
--	--	--

Virtual school is clearly not a perfect replication of campus-based school. Glitches are inevitable and will take some time to figure out. We are ready to work through this with you in partnership and in our common commitment to doing what is right for children and our community. Please let your teachers and me know what is going well and help us identify areas for improvement. We are embracing virtual school as an opportunity for all of us to carry on learning.

Southern Vermont is a good place to be engaging in social distancing. We have beautiful surroundings, fresh air, and kind neighbors. Here are some words I will be carrying in my heart while we are away from our wonderful school:

Every hand that we don't shake must become a phone call that we place.

Every embrace that we avoid must become a verbal expression of warmth and concern.

Every inch and every foot that we physically place between ourselves and another, must become a thought as to how we might be of help to that other, should the need arise.

—Rabbi Yosef Kanefsky

Thank you for your patience and support as we take on this endeavor. We are all in this together.

All the best,
Cricket