



EAGLE MOUNTAIN SAGINAW ISD

Fostering a Culture of Excellence

FROM THE DESK OF DR. LINDA PARKER

Deputy Superintendent

March 27, 2020

Dear EMS ISD Families,

The focus of my work as Deputy Superintendent of EMS ISD centers on student learning. That focus has required a different approach with distance learning, and I am writing today to share information about our instructional plans moving forward and how we are working to streamline communications. My hope is that this update will relieve some of the concerns and demands that are being made during these unprecedented times.

First, I want you to know that we hear your voices. You have been kind and patient with the District as we have coordinated, planned, communicated, and worked to implement distance learning for ALL 21,000+ children in EMS ISD – *in a week*. While a process is never perfect, I believe our staff here in EMS ISD has done an incredible job and I commend you, our family partners, for all the extra work you are doing to continue supporting your child(ren) at home.

As we created our distance learning approach, we intentionally planned for a two-phase system of implementation. This week has been focused on enrichment, providing activities and resources to support prior learning. Additionally, we have worked to provide multiple resources on our distance learning website, which can be found at www.emsisd.com/emsdistancelearning. As we move into this next week, teachers will transition to new learning that directly connects to our curriculum. The enrichment exercises, called “Choice Boards” and found on the [distance learning website](#), will continue to provide students opportunities to support, extend, and enrich their learning.

Distance learning is not always easy for students or parents, or even teachers. The amount of communication to keep everyone connected can be a bit overwhelming. Now that we have a week of experience to pull from, we are making the following commitments to help streamline communication and provide a single resource for parents to know what the coming week holds for learning. Starting today:

- Parents of elementary students will receive an email from their child’s homeroom teacher on Friday afternoons that includes links to lessons for the coming week.
- Parents of students in grades 6-12 will receive an email from their child(ren)’s school principal every Friday afternoon notifying them that lessons for the coming week are uploaded into the teacher’s Canvas or Office 365 account. Middle and high school students should access their accounts using the [Single Sign On Portal](#) (SSO) found under the Students tab on the District website. Parents can access these resources using their child’s SSO.
- Students grades 6-12 are asked to utilize either their District email in Office 365, OneNote, or Canvas to communicate and submit assignments to the teachers throughout the week. Students should check their email daily, at a minimum, to ensure they receive all messages from their teachers.



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Our goal with distance learning is to move your child forward in his/her growth and development to help them master the standards outlined in the curriculum. The expectation is an elementary child should spend a minimum of two hours a day doing academic work. A secondary student is expected to spend a minimum of 3-4 hours a day of academic work. It is vital that students attempt the work and show progress. Parents, we need your help to reframe this time of distance learning for your child. This is NOT an "extension of spring break." According to the State and District, school is back in session and students must participate in the lessons provided by teachers to get credit for their courses and advance to the next grade level. While grading may look different (and we are hoping to have information for you about grading standards very soon), the expectations that students continue to learn remain steadfast.

In addition to curricular lessons, we have online resources for character education development, social/emotional support, and academic growth. Please use them as you need. Additionally, if you have questions or needs, please contact your child's teacher first. If you still need help, please reach out to your principal. All of our teams are here to support the learning while not overloading the work.

I hope your family stays healthy during this time. I also hope you know that here in EMS ISD, we seek to follow our mission of "*creating a culture of excellence that instills a passion of lifetime achievement in every student.*" We appreciate you and your partnership during our EMS Distance Learning.

EMS Proud,

Dr. Linda Parker