HOECH
MIDDLE SCHOOL

Dear Hoech Middle School Parent/Guardian and Student:

As our district takes precautionary measures to keep our students, staff and families safe from the COVID-19 outbreak, we wanted to ensure that instruction and learning continue for our students. As a result, we have created an online learning folder that can be accessed by clicking on the following link: Hoech Middle School Online Learning

In this document below, you will be provided with instructions and tips to help your child continue his/her education while we are out of school. This online learning is to go into effect the week after spring break. Please read over this document and work with your child to provide accountability and support for his/her learning.

If you need to contact your child's teacher(s) please send those teachers an email and they will get back to you. Your child's teachers' contact information may be found in their own individual folders, which you will see once you click on the link above. Teachers may be contacted for clarification regarding assignments, passwords, instructional tips, or anything that can help your child understand and complete the instructional requirements of their class. You may also contact all district staff by going to our school's website and looking under the "Contact Us" link. Once you type a staff member's name, his/her email should be given under their contact information. (https://www.ritenour.k12.mo.us/domain/209).

Thank you for understanding and working with us to keep your child safe and engaged in continuous instruction and learning. Please feel free to let us know how we can help you, and we'll let you know how you can help us. Together, we CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Online Learning Individual Folders

The first thing you should do is have your child write out a list of his/her classes (both Core and Encore). You will then be able to access the online learning folder and find individual folders for your child's classes. Once you go into the Hoech Middle School online learning folder, you will see additional folders for all classes that are taught. Each team will have their own folder that will contain a folder of all four of their core classes (ELA, Math, Science, and Social Studies). There will also be individual folders for all Encore classes. In all folders, you will find additional information and instructions for your child. The teachers will continue to update these folders and add work for all days we are out of school. Students should check their teachers' folders daily and follow any instructions for completing, turning in, and keeping track of their work.

Tips for Having Your Child Participate in Online Learning

- Create a schedule together. Routines are helpful.
- Make space for learning. Students typically do their best work in a quiet, comfortable space that is strictly dedicated to learning. This space should be away from TV, video games, and other distractions if possible.
- Set a goal. Decide on how much time to spend on each subject each day. However, be flexible as needed.
- Make time for regular breaks from work. Include time for fun activities.
- Schedule time for physical activity. You can find ideas in the PE folder online (even if your child is not currently enrolled in a PE class).
- Feel free to email your child's teacher with any questions. They are all willing to support you with this new setup.
- Remember, this is only a temporary arrangement. Do the best you can to help, but also be forgiving with yourself.

Internet Connectivity Resources

Although it would be helpful for students to have access to computers and the internet, all assignments should be able to be accessed and completed simply by having a cellular phone. However, if you would like to look into getting online access, here are some links to companies that are providing internet access to families in need:

Charter Spectrum is offering 60 days of free internet service to families who currently have no internet and no current products from Charter. The full details of their offer can be found here: https://policy.charter.com/press-releases/charter-offer-free-access-spectrum-broadband-wifi-60-days-new-k-12-college-student-households/

To take advantage of this offer, please follow these steps:

- Call 1-844-488-8395
- When prompted, state "Becoming a New Customer"
- When prompted, state your Zip Code

It is our understanding that their requests are pretty high right now, so be prepared to be on hold for a lengthy period of time.

AT&T Wireless

- AT&T will not terminate the service of any customer due to inability to pay due to disruptions caused by the pandemic
- AT&T will waive any late payment fees that customers may incur because of economic hardship related to the pandemic
- AT&T will keep public Wi-Fi hotspots open for any American who needs them

- Full details: https://about.att.com/pages/COVID-19.html

T-Mobile

- All current T-Mobile and Metro by T-Mobile customers who have plans with data will have unlimited smartphone data for the next 60 days
- Providing T-Mobile and Metro by T-Mobile customers an additional 20GB of mobile hotspot / tethering service for the next 60 days
- Full details: https://www.t-mobile.com/brand/ongoing-updates-covid-19

Sprint

- Not terminating service if they are unable to pay their Sprint bill because of the coronavirus
- Waiving late fees incurred because of economic circumstances related to the pandemic
- Customers with metered data plans will receive unlimited data per month for 60 days (a minimum of two bill cycles) at no extra cost
- Providing customers with an additional 20GB of mobile hotspot data per month for 60 days (a minimum of two bill cycles) at no extra cost
- Customers with mobile hotspot-capable handsets who don't have mobile hotspot today will now get 20GB as well per month for 60 days (a minimum of two bill cycles) at no extra cost
- Full details: https://newsroom.sprint.com/covid-19-updates-sprint-responds.htm

Verizon

- The company will not terminate service to any residential or small business customers because of their inability to pay their bills due to disruptions caused by the coronavirus
- Full details: https://www.verizon.com/about/news/our-response-coronavirus

Online Learning Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q: How long will we continue this online learning structure?
A: Right now, our tentative return date is April 6. We will be continually monitoring and working with local and state officials to determine when the schools will reopen. Our district will communicate with families if that date changes.

Q: Is my child required to participate in this online learning structure and complete assignments for his/her courses?
A: Yes, if your child is currently enrolled as a student in the Ritenour School District, he/she will be responsible for full participation in our online learning structure and completing all assignments.

Q: When does this online learning structure go into effect?
A: Because we are technically on spring break next week, this online learning instruction officially starts on the week of March 30th. However, students should have access now. To pace themselves and keep up with the workload, students may want to start their online learning as soon as possible.

Q: I can't access the online learning folder. What do I do now?
A: You should have access through the link above. If not, however, every child has access via their school's sign in information and password. Please ask your child to login and you will be able to see the assignments. If your child needs a reminder, most passwords are associated with their birthdate unless they changed their passwords.

Q: What if my child doesn't have access to a computer?
A: As stated under Internet Connectivity Resources, there are local companies that will be offering internet access at a reduced or free rate. Check with some of those companies to see if you qualify. Also, all assignments should be accessible to your child through the use of a cellular phone. Please work with your child to create a structure for him/her to access his assignments daily by cellular phone.

Q: What if my child does not understand how to do the work? Has questions about an assignment? Needs access to passwords, quizzes, etc?
A: Have your child email his/her teacher with any questions or concerns regarding any assignments or online learning. Teachers will be responding to email and communicating with students during this time.

Q: What if my child doesn't have the books or resources to complete an assignment?
A: Most assignments will need nothing more than a pen/pencil, paper, and cell phone to complete. Also, children who attended school on the Monday or Tuesday before we were out were given the resources and tools to complete their assignments. However, it is possible that your child was not in school those days and was unable to take his/her books, instruments, etc. home. If this is the case, please contact that teacher to ask about alternative assignments to complete.

Q: How else can my child be supported to help him/her be successful with this online learning structure?
A: Students should also consider contacting fellow classmates when they have questions or need support. All students in our district will be participating in online learning, so having them connect to each other is another strategy to help students be successful. Also, encourage your child to check his/her email and the online folder daily for updates and new information.