

Given the extension of school closure and uncertainty of how long it may last, General McLane will move from optional enrichment learning to required planned instruction beginning on Monday, March 30.

How are students supposed to learn at home the way they learn in school?

They're not. We believe that when it comes to education, we should always "strive for live." Nothing can really replace a professional teacher in a classroom with a student; but, we find ourselves in a peculiar spot and having students not receive education for weeks or months is not acceptable to us. Our teachers have been working hard to structure learning at home and we are optimistic about what we can provide. We need to all strive to do our best in this unique situation. Because this is new to all of us, we will all need to be patient as we work through it.

What is our primary tool for delivering instruction?

Our learning management system, Schoology, is the primary method to provide information and assignments and to receive completed work from students. Programs such as Notability may likely be used to enhance the ability to collect and correct student work. **Students are to check Schoology daily. They should have notifications for Schoology turned on.** (see https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qm8Oc_QGO7A)

How much work should we expect each day?

Our basic requirement would be a minimum of 30 minutes per subject per day. Some courses, such as accelerated high school courses, would of course require more time. This is less time than a normal school day as we recognize the time constraints some families will face.

Is the expectation for synchronous instruction whereby teachers and students are online at the same time?

No. We were able to do that on March 13 but this situation is different. Given that "the whole world is online," we can expect many households to have multiple online users: parents working from home, perhaps a college student in the family doing online classes and K-12 students from GM. Families will need to stretch out their online use over the course of the day. Teachers may need to do so as well; therefore, we will function in an asynchronous environment. Instructional materials are posted and students do them when possible; however, we strongly urge students to work **every day** so they do not get behind.

What about grading?

The middle school will be using a Pass/Fail system. At the high school, teachers may opt for Pass/Fail if what they teach lends itself to such a system. Teachers will communicate with students regarding this.

In this unique situation, we are looking to place our focus on **learning** as the most important result.

What are the expectations for communicating with students?

We are asking faculty to inform students of an "office hour" each day when they would be available to answer email or Schoology posts. That hour will not necessarily have to be during the regular school hours. Student may also email teachers or contact them through Schoology.

What about students without internet or sketchy internet?

A number of items are in play on this. First, the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority is working to provide hot spots for students without internet but have good cellular reception. We are not sure when or if this will happen. Secondly, there will be a few outside “hot spots” at each building where parents can drive up in the car and students can download what they need (and subsequently upload). You should not get out of the car.* Finally, we will provide paper learning packets for students who cannot get internet or drive to a school to download work.

What are the details on these hotspots?*

During the shutdown, we have increased the receptivity of our wireless “hot spots” in the building to reach outside. You can stay in your car while a student uses the iPad to download assigned work. Locations are:

High school - front parking lot and south parking lot by Education Center

JWPMS - Front near gym, north side by stadium

McKean - front parking lot; rear lot near gym

Edinboro - Front lot and rear lot by entrance

You do not have to go to your child’s school to access a hot spot. It will work the same at every building.

What are the details on the packet?

We have compiled a list of students who do not have internet at home. We are creating a package delivery system whereby one of our drivers will drop off a packet on Tuesday. If children in the household are eligible for free or reduced lunch, that will also be included. It will be left at the front door. After the first week, completed work should be left in the envelope at the front door by 8:30 a.m. each Tuesday.

Envelopes will be sprayed with an antiviral approved by the CDC and drivers will handle all materials with gloves.

The first packet will be delivered on Tuesday, March 31.

Please call the school building office if you receive a packet and do not need it or if you need a packet and do not receive anything on March 31.

What about 5th graders who do not have their iPads?

Parents of fifth graders will be able to pick up their iPad from the building on Friday, March 27 from 12:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m.* We will practice social distancing so please be prepared to be patient.

Details on the distribution will be coming from your principal.

* In the Stay at Home order, under the category of “Allowable Essential Travel” is the statement:

* “Travel to or from educational institutions for purposes of receiving materials for distance learning, for receiving meals, and any other related services. “