

Michigan Virtual Charter Academy

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Hazel Park, MI 48030

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March 23, 2020

Dear MVCA Families,

I hope this email finds you all doing well as our nation continues to navigate the COVID 19 pandemic.

We are grateful to be able to continue to provide educational services to all of our students during this time. I wanted to share a few updates with you as we head into this week.

1. **Weekly Schedule:** This week will operate on the same schedule we had last week. If any changes need to be made, your teacher or principal will notify you via email.
2. **Spring Break:** Spring break is still scheduled to take place next week beginning Saturday, March 28th and ending Sunday, April 5th.
3. **Post Spring Break:** It is our intent to continue to provide educational services following spring break. We will continue to monitor the COVID 19 pandemic situation as it evolves as well as all of the ripple effects that have come with the response to the coronavirus. Prior to your return on April 6th, we will inform you of our schedule and any changes that may occur.
4. **Testing:** MVCA applied for a waiver of exemption from state assessments on March 17th. Shortly thereafter, the State of Michigan also applied for a waiver of exemption from state assessments from the federal government. The Department of Education has since announced that it would be granting waivers. Once we get official notification of the terms of such waiver, we will be sure to communicate with you the terms of that waiver. We hope to get this information this week prior to spring break. I realize many media outlets have stated that students will not take state assessments. While our information indicates this may be true, MVCA must wait upon the official notice and terms.
5. **Instructional Days/Hours:** A memo was issued last Friday by the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) stating that online education would not count toward the required

days and hours. This has caused a great deal of confusion for our parents and staff. It is our understanding that this memo was intended for brick and mortar schools who were attempting to implement online learning, not for schools that were originally, and officially, online schools. We are currently working with MDE and legislators to clarify this issue. Please understand that our state and federal leaders are working diligently to lead us through this issue. Decisions are often based on a broad scope, and it takes time to work out the details. Know that we are working on your behalf and on behalf of online education.

We look forward to walking beside our families and providing an option for quality education. We also recognize that we will all be impacted in many different ways. If we can be of assistance, please reach out to your teacher, or your principal.

In Service,

Randy Rodriguez
Head of School
Michigan Virtual Charter Academy