

**Masconomet Middle School
Frequently Asked Questions**

A. Chromebooks/ Materials/ Login Information

- 1. Will students receive school-issued chromebooks?** The Masconomet School District will provide, free of charge, a school-issued Chromebook to any student who needs one. IT will provide support for Masconomet owned devices and support for Masco online learning platforms such as Blackboard and Powerschool.
- 2. What if they have their own device, can that be used instead of borrowing one?**
Yes, students may use their own devices that are compatible with BlackBoard.
- 3. Will students receive agenda books?** Yes, all students will receive an agenda book to organize their schedule, class assignments and projects.
- 4. How does my child login to the various platforms?** Student logins for their BlackBoard, Power School and email accounts will be provided to all students. A tutorial video will be provided and hosted on our website for reference.
- 5. For 7th grade and new students- what is Blackboard and Powerschool?**
Blackboard is our instruction/learning platform. This is the site where students will login, virtually join their courses and interact with teachers and classmates.
Power School is a platform which hosts students' grades and attendance.

B. Attendance

- 1. What if my child is sick or has an appointment, do we need to report their absence to the school?** Yes, anytime your child is not attending a school day, whether virtual or in person learning, please call (978) 887- 2323, select 0, then 2,

then 1 to reach the Middle School absence reporting line and leave your child's name and grade level.

2. **What if I am not sure to send my child to school?** If your child is not feeling well, has a temperature, cough or any flu-like symptoms, please keep them home, notify the school and monitor their health.
3. **Will attendance be taken for the day and during each class period?** Yes, class and daily attendance will be recorded and reported to the State of Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.
4. **How will the attendance be tracked?** Attendance will be taken by the teacher to begin each class whether virtual or in person learning.
5. **What is an excused absence?** An excused Absence According to Chapter 71B, Section 3, of the General Laws of the Commonwealth, absence can occur only for physical or mental illness and religious reasons. Students must submit a note to the main office from the parent or guardian stating the reason for the absence.
6. **Are vacations excused absences?** No, vacations are considered an "Unexcused Absence."

C. **Communications/Meetings**

1. **How does my child reach out to a teacher to ask a question or seek help?**
Students may email the teacher directly from Masco email address.
2. **How does my child reach out to a guidance/adjustment counselor to ask a question or seek help?** Students may email their counselor directly.
3. **When will I.E.P. and 504 meetings take place?** The I.E.P. and 504 meeting will be scheduled between 7:35- 8:20 a.m.

D. Social Emotional Learning

- 1. How will SEL and connectedness be addressed with students with their teachers and with their peers?** We have built a strong culture of kindness throughout the Masconomet School community. Our expectations are that teachers, students and staff work together to create a kind and caring environment. Our guidance and adjustment counselors will always be there with encouragement, support, guidance and professionalism to help guide our students through any challenges.

E. Instruction/Learning/Scheduling

- 1. What is the W.I.N. block and how will that be used?** The W.I.N. block is a, "What do I Need" period for students to access guidance counselors, coordinators, teachers, advisors, etc., as needed.
- 2. What is Period 8?** Period 8 is designated for student assemblies, Middle School Team time, Professional Development for teachers Social Emotional Learning, (SEL).
- 3. What are the expectations for assignments and learning during the remote day?** Expectations for assignments are similar to in-person learning with consistency across teams and subject matter. Please see our Remote Learning Expectations as well.
- 4. When will the hybrid learning model begin?** As of now, hybrid instruction and learning is scheduled to begin October 19, 2020. This date is subject to change.

- 5. Can my student continue virtual and opt out of hybrid?** Yes, a parent may choose to have their child continue virtual learning when the school district has moved to the hybrid model or to in-person instruction. The parent will need to submit this request in writing to Dr. McManus.

F. Clubs and Excels

- 1. Will Middle School Excels be offered this year?** Middle School Excels may be offered after students return to a hybrid learning model. Only activities that will ensure social distancing will be offered. School provided transportation is not offered with any Excels activities.
- 2. Will clubs run and what will that look like?** Clubs will be offered during remote and in person learning. During remote learning, club meeting times will be from 7:35 - 8:20 a.m. Announcements will be made to inform students for signup times for those interested. Some club offerings we have had in the past and hope to offer this year include: School Council, Yearbook, Math Team, Science Fair, Announcement Club, Masco Monitor Newspaper and the Gender and Sexuality Alliance.

G. Building Accessibility

- 1. Will visitors be allowed in the building?** Building accessibility will be extremely limited. Only parents who are picking up a sick child will be allowed in the building. A picture license will be needed.