



Date: April 9, 2020

RE: Letter and FAQ to MCCTC & Valley STEM Families (*Current and Future*)

From: Mara L. Banfield, Director

Dear Families,

As we head into spring break we wanted to reach out with some information for you. The staff and administration recognizes some of the challenges you may be experiencing with online education, and we empathize with you! **The bottom line is there is no replacement for our amazing staff and high quality education they provide through their passion and dedication. We MISS YOU!** Having said that, we are going to continue to work hard as we move forward to meet your needs in the best way we are able to in this situation. Do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have questions or concerns at mara.banfield@mahoningctc.com.

Here are a few things to keep in mind:

- Spring break starts Friday April 10, and we will return Monday April 20. It is imperative that students check back in with instructors on the return date.
- Students *must continue to work hard to complete coursework.* Although there have been some modifications to graduation requirements for this year, ***passing coursework for the year is still a requirement to graduate!***
- We will continue to monitor and abide by the Governor's directives and timeline (as of the date of this publication, May 1 is the scheduled return date)
- We will provide summer school offerings. Information will be sent in early May. If we are allowed in the building, we will offer a blended approach (some face-to-face with our staff, some online). If not allowed in the building, we will provide online coursework.
- We are exploring summer camp opportunities for younger students as always (if we are permitted in building)
- We are also exploring summer camp options for current students to take Industry Credentialing coursework for their career portfolios that would have taken place this spring. *Students will not be charged for what they would have taken in*

spring. More information to come- this will be dictated by if we are allowed in the building.

- ***New Families***- we will be reaching out after spring break to schedule online meetings with you and staff/administration to welcome you, and answer any questions you may have. For incoming grade 11, if you have questions about accepting your enrollment letter, please contact noreen.sabo@mahoningctc.com
- If you want added to **our weekly newsletter** (it is awesome!) email jessica.cene@mahoningctc.com. [Click here to read the last one!](#)
- See below for senior event dates and backup dates

Calendar for Senior Events (Current and Backup):

Prom	Senior Picnic	NTHS	Graduation Practice	Graduation Ceremony
Current Schedule	Current Schedule	Current Schedule	Current Schedule	Current Schedule
May 9	May 15	May 1	May 22 & 26	May 27
Prom	Senior Picnic	NTHS	Graduation Practice	Graduation Ceremony
Backup Schedule- If Needed	Backup Schedule- If Needed	Backup Schedule- If Needed	Backup Schedule- If Needed	Backup Schedule- If Needed
August 1	August 3	August 4 (AM) 9:00-10:30	August 3 and 4	August 5 8-11 am (STAMBAUGH)

Thank you again for your partnership. We are grateful you are part of our amazing school family.

With Gratitude,

Mara L. Banfield

Director MCCTC, Superintendent Valley STEM

FAQ (Previously Published)

Q: Will we return to school this year?

A: As of today, the target date is May 1. We will await guidance and information from the governor and proceed as if we are, and we are planning in case we are not.

Q: Will I have to take End-of-Course tests?

A: Per HB 197, signed by the Governor on 3/27/2020, these will be waived this year.

Q: If I do not have to take End-of-Course, will this keep me from graduating?

A: Students will not be penalized if they were on track to graduate as of the date the Governor's order went into effect. *They still MUST pass coursework!*

Q: Will I have to take WebXam (CT) this year?

A: Per HB 197, signed by the Governor on 3/27/2020, these will be waived this year. *They still MUST pass coursework!*

Q: Will this affect me from graduating?

A: Here is the [latest information from the Ohio Department of Education](#). Per ODE FAQ:

“Ensuring that the Class of 2020 is on track to graduate is an important priority. Schools should take this opportunity to review the status of each senior to determine the extent to which the student has met [graduation requirements for the Class of 2020](#). There is significant flexibility in the graduation requirements for the Class of 2020. *They still MUST pass coursework!*”

It is important that schools understand the needs of each of their students and have, to the extent possible, a plan to help each student complete these requirements during the remainder of the school year, both during the closure period (as practicable) and at such time as school may resume.

Should the current situation change, the Department of Education will provide additional information. Our commitment is to provide reasonable flexibility in the interest of doing what is right for students”

MCCTC has extensive data for which of our students were on track prior to this situation occurring. If you have a question, reach out to your child's counselor. We will be in contact with all senior families as soon as the state releases the next update and we interpret what they decide.

Q: Will we still have spring break and summer as scheduled?

A: The calendar will not change, so yes.

Q: What about prom, NTHS, and other events?

A: See calendar above for original and backup dates scheduled for events. We are moving forward with original dates until we are told we cannot do so. If that becomes the case, the backup dates would be in effect.

Q: What about summer school and camps?

A: If we are allowed in the building we will offer summer school and camps. We will offer summer school online if we are not allowed in the building for some reason.

Q: What about the industry credentials I was going to get as a senior that would help me in my future job?

A: We are working through options here. If we are allowed in the building in the summer, we may offer opportunities for camps centered around credentials. Details to come, but we assure you that finding a solution for seniors is a priority.

Q: What about outstanding fees?

A: Admin is working through this now. You will be contacted if you have fees that are outstanding (only if you are a senior). If you have any problems with payment, simply notify administration and they will assist you with options.

Q: What about participating in clubs?

A: If you are interested, reach out to your club advisor, and they can explore virtual activities.

Q: What about picking up my cap and gown if we move the senior ceremony to August?

A: We will provide you with more information if this becomes the case.

Q: What about report cards?

A: Our timeline and calendar will not change. Report cards were posted online. If you need assistance accessing them, email Noreen Sabo at Noreen.Sabo@mahoningctc.com (grades 11 and 12), or Jacci Duda (grades 9 and 10) at jacquelyn.duda@mahoningctc.com

Q: What about home district graduation ceremonies?

A: We will assemble that information when we get it as it becomes available.

Q: What if I need to talk to a counselor?

A: [Click this link and they will contact you.](#)

Q: What about ACT, applying for college, CC Plus:

A: [Visit this page for guidance updates.](#)

Q: Where else can I find more information?

A: Here are some resources. Social media is the best way to get up-to-date information since it changes frequently.

[Governor Dewine's Website](#)

[MCCTC Website](#)

[STEM Website](#)

[Ohio Department of Education](#)

Social Media (follow us! Updates daily):

- **Instagram** (MCCTC; stem.me2)
- **Facebook** (Mahoning County Career and Technical Center; Valley STEM + ME2 Academy)
- **Twitter** (@MCCTC; @MaraBanfield; @STEMAcademy2)

Please contact your teachers for any questions related to your assignments. Call 330-729-4000 if you have other questions. We have people monitoring phone lines.