



Murray Bridge High School

Excellence ♦ Respect ♦ Working together



7 April 2020

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Firstly I would like to thank you for your patience and understanding as we all navigate through the biggest change to education this century, all happening in a very short period of time! Who would have thought things could change so quickly, and the responsibility for you I know is enormous. We are developing systems to ensure all students get the learning they are entitled to, and will not be disadvantaged when we regroup at school some stage later in the year. Some parents have contacted the school with clarifying questions and I thought it timely to answer to all.

Yesterday, most of our professional learning was conducted online, so we used a collaborative platform called 'Google Meets' to brainstorm, collaborate and find solutions to challenges that teachers and students might face in an online forum. We were also very fortunate to be able to receive targeted training from a Google for Education presenter. Later this week we will send home a comprehensive Online Learning Handbook (OLH) for students and parents/caregivers. It will have the essential information you need, along with step by step guides to get everyone started. This is intended as a reference guide, and as efficiencies or new possibilities become available we will email the update.

In the first instance I have asked teachers to post a 10 week overview for every subject on their Google classroom page, so that you can have the bigger picture of what the learning will look like throughout the term should we be isolating for the entire time. You will have access to this by following the prompts in the Online Learning Handbook. Students will access their Google Classroom at the designated times on their timetable, but they won't stay in their classroom for this whole time, some will carry out research or plan responses to activities or complete practical type challenges. Check in learning activities posted each week will help teachers to check for understanding and revisit concepts as needed. All students must complete these tasks. A deadline schedule will also be visible to give you an idea of when assessment tasks are due.

Teachers will post the learning activities each week, and let your child know when they are expected to be online for interactive sessions. If your child isn't engaging in their Google Classrooms you will get an email from the teacher of the subject missed. This is so you can keep abreast of what is happening and ask the right questions of your child, and they won't be able to fall behind. We all need to work together on this.

The students who come to school will not go to their regular scheduled lessons with their subject teacher in their physical classroom. They will be supervised by a rostered teacher as they access their Google Classrooms, exactly the same as children staying home. Teachers cannot be online with students and teaching in a classroom at the same time successfully. We will also have restrictions on yard areas during breaks to support social distancing. Students will not be able to pop in and out of school, we will need 48 hours advanced notice of a child who has indicated they will be learning from home coming to school, to ensure adequate supervision and 4m sq rules are adhered to.

We have been lucky that the virus hasn't spread in the Murraylands region yet, and we intend to follow the protocols that keep our teachers and families as safe as possible. Once you have the Online learning Handbook, have a look through and then fire any questions by return email. I will aim to respond, even through the holidays if needed to urgent concerns.

Warm regards,

Ruth

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