Dear Marauder Families:

Welcome back! Below you will find helpful information to review before school starts. We will continue to push information out to you as we receive it.

Structure of Distance Learning

- Please review our Bell Schedule for distance learning. Note that we will be following a Monday schedule on the first day of school. If you have a zero period, you will meet for the first time on the second day of school.

First Day of School - Wednesday, August 12th

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:15-9:35</td>
<td>1st Period (20 min.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:40-10:00</td>
<td>2nd Period (20 min.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:05-10:25</td>
<td>3rd Period (20 min.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:25-10:40</td>
<td>Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:40-11:00</td>
<td>4th Period (20 min.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:05-11:25</td>
<td>5th Period (20 min.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30-11:50</td>
<td>6th Period (20 min.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:50-3:00</td>
<td>Lunch &amp; Asynchronous Learning</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What is the difference between synchronous and asynchronous distance learning?

- **Synchronous Distance Learning**: Live interaction, instruction, and check-ins between teachers and students through the use of a computer or communications technology.
  - We will be holding "live" online classes during synchronous learning. Students must arrive on time and be present until excused by the teacher, just as they would in a normal, in-person classroom environment.

- **Asynchronous Distance Learning**: Recorded video or audio instruction in which the primary mode of communication between the student and certificated employee is online interaction, instructional television, video, telecourses, or other instruction that
relies on computer or communications technology and learning may be accessed by students at different times and a remote location.

- During asynchronous time, students will work independently. While this time is scheduled each day in the afternoon, unlike synchronous class time, asynchronous minutes are flexible and can be worked into the student’s day whenever it fits best.

- **Advisory** will occur on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays during distance learning. Students are required to attend Advisory. Advisory is a period designed to provide support, make connections with others, and stay informed about upcoming events. Think of your Advisory teacher as your main school contact. We are here to help!

- **Student Activities/Intervention** is scheduled on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. This time provides opportunities for academic support and enrichment. Students are required to attend. During the first week of school this will be a designated time to go to your advisory teacher for questions and support.

- **Class attendance** will be based on the student's online presence in class each day. Students not online for their classes during synchronous learning will be marked absent. Students who are habitually late, tardy, or absent will be considered truant. Students who are having technical difficulties should contact the teacher immediately.

**Google Classroom/Online Tools**
- All teachers will be facilitating their class via Google Classroom. [Here is a cheat sheet for students on how to use Google Classroom.](#)
- Synchronous learning will take place through Microsoft Teams. Students will access the link for the meeting via Google Classroom.
- Students will receive a Chromebook before school starts. FCUSD tech support can be accessed [here](#). This support is for district devices only.

**Getting Ready for the First Day of School**
- Charge Chromebooks and make sure the device is updated. Here are the [directions for updating your Chromebook.](#)
- Check PowerSchool to make sure there has not been a change to the student's schedule.
- Learn how to access Google Classroom and Clever by reviewing [Beginning of the Year Instructions](#) for students.
- Learn how to access Microsoft Teams [here](#) and learn how to use Teams to participate in class [here](#).
- Before class begins on the first day, students should check Google Classroom for instructions from each of their teachers about how to join their first "live" class meeting on Wednesday.

**Grading**
- Unlike last semester, all students will earn grades (A-F).
● Grades will be posted in PowerSchool via the parent and student portal. Teachers will no longer be using Managebac for grades. As a school, we will continue using IB MYP rubrics to assign a score and then we will input the IB score (1-8) into PowerSchool as a percent.

**Schedule Changes**

● Schedule change requests can be made only through [this link](#) located on the counseling webpage.

**Back to School Night - Thursday, August 20th**

● We are working to put together pre-recorded presentations for this year’s Back to School Night. Please watch your email and our webpage for more information as we get closer to that date.

**Communication with Families and Students During Distance Learning**

● Teachers will sometimes send group class emails through PowerSchool. These usually only go to parents since that is the only email in PowerSchool, but families can easily add their student’s email so that they, too, receive class emails. The parent portal will open on August 12th. At that time, you can log in to PowerSchool, and find the Email Notifications link under the Navigation Menu. There you can add additional email addresses, including your student’s email address.

● For school-wide communications, we will continue to use Blackboard Connect. Some parents have issues with these emails disappearing into their “Spam” folder. If you add [email@blackboard.com](mailto:email@blackboard.com) to your contacts, these messages should appear in your inbox. If a family chooses to unsubscribe to these emails, they will miss principal and school updates.

● Please regularly check our [school website](#) for updates. During the opening weeks of school, we recommend checking daily. Additionally, we are working on a Student and Parent Technology Support webpage. It will be launched shortly and will also be accessible via our website.

I know this is a great deal of information to digest, so please do not hesitate to contact us if you still have any questions. Our teachers are excited for this school year, and we are committed to the success of our students.

We’re in this together!

*Amy Strawn*

Amy Strawn
Principal, W.E. Mitchell Middle School