

MARCELLUS SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

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MICHAEL FREE
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Friday, October 23, 2020

Dear Mustang Students and Parents,

As we move into the last 2 ½ weeks of the first marking period, I want to address a few things to help clarify expectations and ultimately benefit all students.

Attendance

Whether your child is fully virtual or is in the hybrid model, **school is 5 days a week**. There seems to be the perception that attendance is only taken during in-person classes. The reality is that teachers are required to take attendance on a daily, period-by-period (or class by class) basis. In-person days are certainly easier to understand. If a child is at school, in their classes, they are marked present. If they are not in school, they are marked absent.

Attendance on remote learning days can be more confusing. Teachers determine how attendance will be taken on remote days. Many times, students are:

- Given an assignment to do independently and must submit it by the deadline.
- Required by teachers to attend Google Meet or Hangout
- Required to do both.

Remote days are not days off. Whereas a student may be in school 6 ½ hours on an in person day, we believe that students must put forth an equal and genuine effort on the remote days. Though this may not be the same amount of time, the students should be putting in an equal amount of effort to succeed.

Wednesdays have their own schedule all together:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Cohort A	in-person	in-person	Online	Online	Online
Cohort B	Online	Online	Online	in-person	in-person

Wednesday (Online for All)

- 8-10:15 - Meetings (faculty, team, content, etc.)
- 10:15 - 11:00 - Block 1
- 11:00-11:45- Block 2
- 11:45-12:15-Lunch
- 12:15-1:00-Block 3
- 1:00 - 1:45 - Block 4
- 1:45-2:30 - Block R (Remote)
- 2:30-2:55-Office Hours

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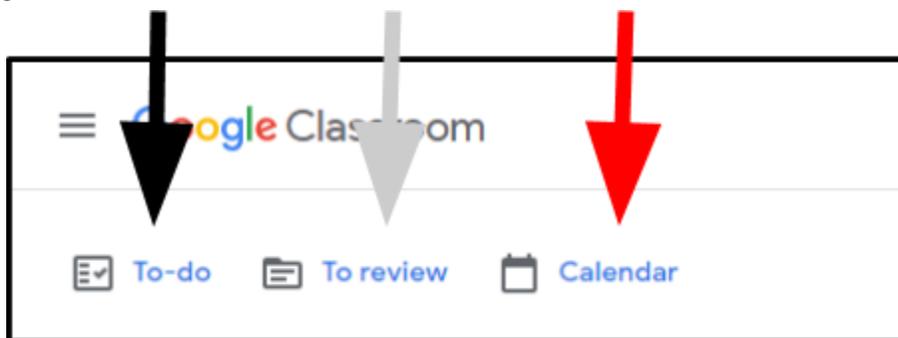
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Tracking Your Child's Progress

Have your child log into their Google Classroom for you. Google Classroom has a few features that make tracking student progress easier.



Located at the very top of the Google Classroom page, these features will give you a list of all assignments due either by class or by all classes and by due dates. It will also show you missing assignments and completed assignments. By monitoring these assignments through these toggles, you can track daily progress.

You can also **download the Google Classroom App to your phone** and have your child log into it for you! They use their school email account user name and password. **Warning!** You will receive notifications of work assigned regularly. I would caution you that if you do not want multiple notifications a day, you may not want to choose this option. As a parent, I have this on my phone and can tell you from personal experience that you will be astounded with the amount of information your child receives daily!

With all of this said, I can tell you that every morning and lunchtime, we encourage the students to **check their emails**. As adults, many of us use email on a daily basis. This is foreign to some of our children. With so many social media platforms available to them, email may seem antiquated. However, it is a very important mode of communication in both public education and higher education.

We hope you find this information useful. I constantly have to remind myself that this is not a normal year. There is nothing common nor self-evident. As we figure things out, we will endeavor to share with you! I truly appreciate our partnership in helping make the best education possible for our students out of our current situation.

Have a great weekend!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John R. Durkee".

John R. Durkee
Senior High School Principal