



Maritime Academy Charter School

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Dear Maritime Families,

Welcome back to Maritime Academy - **VIRTUAL** - Charter School. MACS will be Virtual using Remote Learning Programs for the first marking period through November 2, 2020. MACS will be assessing at all times Health & Safety Issues. Should conditions improve and the risk of the virus minimized, MACS will open in person education or with an A/B hybrid schedule when it is safe to do so.

On March 13th, MACS went totally virtual as a result of the worldwide Coronavirus Pandemic pursuant to its careful and well-constructed Continuity of Education Plan. The Coronavirus has been the most devastating health and safety issue that any of us have had to deal with in our lifetime. Despite this, we were able to complete the school year and hold a memorable Move Up Day Ceremony and a Memorable Graduation Day Ceremony. Since that time, we have carefully followed the spread of the Virus throughout our Country and the World. Unfortunately, the Virus continues to be a serious Health and Safety issue for everyone at MACS - you, your families, our teachers, support staff, your counselors, Principals and all those who make up our precious MACS family. The MACS Administrative family met many times to consider the health & safety issues that confronted our school. Many families and teachers expressed their concerns that the virus presented significant health risk to them and our cadets. We also sought out the advice and council of several other Charter School leaders facing the same questions. After consideration of thoughtful council and advice from trusted members of the MACS family, MACS will not open an in- person school but will continue a robust Virtual program following a carefully constructed Continuity of Education Plan and a comprehensive Health & Safety Plan.

MACS will also establish a hybrid plan of Continuity of Education both in person and remote for those cadets in our Special Education Programs. Our school buildings will remain open and staffed, cleaned and sanitized for use on an as needed basis.

Teachers can teach from their home or from their regular assigned classroom. In person instruction will be carefully planned for smaller groups that will follow the health and safety protocols. Even though we are teaching and learning remotely, the protocol of wearing our uniform and dressing for school will help us stay focused. MACS will also continue to supply breakfast and lunch to all MACS families at the grab and go site located at 2275 Bridge Street. Our teachers and staff will continue our very best to continue all education and recreational programs; the Virtual Art Show and a Virtual Music Program, and a Virtual Winter Concert should be planned. Parent Teacher Conferences will go forward. Sports programs will be addressed on a case by case basis. I have instructed everyone before cancelling any event, educational experience, writing project, or outing, to give careful thought to safe alternatives. If we can do it, the motto will be *WE CAN DO IT SAFELY*.

The virus has been in reality the very least of a number of stressful social issues to be addressed in the 2020/21 school year. We will not sweep these issues under the rug but address them candidly and honestly. We will talk about race and bigotry in America. The teachers, principals and I are reading the book "So You Want to Talk About Race". A commentator on the writing of Ms. Ijeoma Oluo states, "You are not going to find a more user-friendly examination of race in America than Ijeoma Oluo's fantastic new book. The writing is elegantly simple, which is a real feat when tackling such a thorny issue."

Think of it as Race for the Willing - to Listen. MACS is going to talk about Race and LISTEN. It is the generations in our schools today that are more accepting of differences. I am confident that your generation will lead the path. I believe that you do believe in justice and equality. I have seen it in our school and on the playing fields of basketball, volleyball, soccer, bowling, in the hallways and in the classrooms. Our second theme for 2020-2021 is Year of Inclusion and Diversity.

Let's look at the virus as a test of our will power. We are going to care for one another by wearing a mask, social distancing, washing our hands, practicing good personal hygiene, cleaning and sanitizing our buildings and spaces, paying attention to the details, being vigilant, whether we are at home or perchance in a school building. If we are sick with COVID symptoms, we will stay home and quarantine. Finally, we shall always **BE RICH IN KINDNESS**. Let's have a magnificent teaching and learning experience in the year 2020/2021!

The details of the virtual learning plan will be posted on the website as well as email and mailed to the homes.