

Questions from Town Hall for Parents

This document lists the questions asked during the Town Hall Meeting for Parents on Thursday, March 26. Answers are provided after each question. We will hold another webinar hosted by the Headmaster on Wednesday, 4/1 at 6 p.m. to discuss the changes in the distance learning academic schedule.

If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact Headmaster Thornburg at thornburgj@maldencatholic.org.

Academics and Calendar

1. Will there be a more unified plan for the “distance learning” Some teachers are using Zoom and others Google classroom or both. Will there be a more unified approach to distant learning?

We initially developed a plan for a two-week period. Now that we know that distance learning will have a longer duration, we will be adopting a new schedule that will include a modified schedule of classes daily beginning on Monday, April 4 with an engaging Zoom component. This may also include “virtual office hours” for students to ask questions and get extra help.

2. Zoom is not a secure platform. Can you purchase upgrades to make it safe?

MC has purchased an upgraded package for Zoom that offers a secure platform and additional features that allow us to track all participants on the call and eliminate external parties.

3. Can teachers provide a weekly syllabus at the start of the week and post all homework before classes begin in the morning?

All assignments will be posted by 8:00 a.m. and teachers will provide clarity of workflow.

4. Not all children learn in the same way and for some, information might have been lost with distance learning. Will administration put thought into the academics that will be taught next year?

So far, our teachers are on track with the educational materials planned for this year. We do not anticipate the need to make up for missed content but will be happy to work with individual students who might need additional support.

5. Will underclassmen still have final exams?

Administration is currently discussing a plan for final exams.

6. Would the school calendar be extended if we return back to school?

We are currently planning to follow the original school year calendar. Depending when we return to the building, we may consider the possibility of the school year extending a week or two to accommodate important end of the year events and to provide time to make sure students are prepared for the next school year. If we decide to extend the school year, we will be sensitive to families who may have planned vacations during this time. A link to the **updated school calendar** can be found through this link on the [MC Distance Learning](https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1585590721/malden/zfcdutkovbujyz0lmkk/UpdatedMCSchoolCalendar_1.pdf) website page: https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1585590721/malden/zfcdutkovbujyz0lmkk/UpdatedMCSchoolCalendar_1.pdf

7. Will there be a spring break this year?

We have been polling our parents and our staff. The leadership team is still discussing this matter and we will be sensitive to the needs of our families and faculty.

8. When is the last day of school?

The last day of classes for underclass is May 29th. The last day of final exams Thursday, June 4.

9. Will the 4th quarter be pass/fail?

Classes have continued since the beginning of the crisis and we are currently planning to assign letter grades for this year.

SAT/ACT

10. Is the SAT scheduled for June 7 cancelled?

The April SAT is cancelled. Here is an updated notice from the College Board: College Board will provide future additional SAT testing opportunities for students as soon as possible in place of cancelled administrations. We'll be as flexible as possible to give students the best chance to show their skills and stay on the path to college. We have not yet cancelled the June 6, 2020 SAT and SAT Subject Test administration and will continue to assess its status, with the health and safety of students and educators as our top priority. We are also exploring the possibility of adding an international SAT administration later this school year.

11. When will the juniors take their spring ACT?

The spring ACT has been canceled. We are looking to reschedule this exam in the fall. Colleges are aware of this and many have indicated they are going to waive the SAT/ACT as a requirement for admission.

AP Testing

12. Will there still be Advanced Placement exams?

The College Board is moving AP exams to a virtual platform. The length of the exams will be shortened to approximately 45 minutes and the material tested will be what was covered through March 4. More information about the schedule and other details will be coming out in early April. We will send this information along once we have it. Malden Catholic's policy that students in AP courses must take the exam remains in place.

13. What if I am not comfortable with my student taking virtual AP exams?

Parents or students who have concerns about the virtual exams should contact our School Counseling Director, Mrs. Caitlyn Oates at oatesc@maldencatholic.org.

14. Is there any news on whether colleges will still give credit for AP classes where they are not being tested on the entire course?

This is a decision each college will have to make individually. Students should look to their perspective colleges' admission websites for this information. Currently, we believe that most colleges will still award credit for AP test scores.

15. How do I pay for an AP exam at this time?

All families with AP testing fees received invoices by regular mail around February 15. The fees vary and were reflected in the invoice. Payment for AP testing was due March 16. However, you can still send in payment for your student's AP exam. Please check your invoice for the amount due and send a check payable to Malden Catholic and mail it to Attention: Kelly Lane at Malden Catholic High School 99 Crystal Street Malden, MA 02148. The payments will be processed when we are allowed back in the building. If you do not know the amount for your student's test, please email lanek@maldencatholic.org.

College Fair

16. Is the Malden Catholic college fair cancelled?

The MC College Fair is cancelled. We encourage students to view this spreadsheet for easy access to hundreds of colleges' virtual tours and information sessions. You can find the colleges [virtual tour spreadsheet](#) here:
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1sO7pVos0EvK0BvXoMbnyg00K6r7hXbOQE0HNXF4N4eM/edit?usp=sharing>

Career Day

17. Will Malden Catholic hold Career Day?

The Malden Catholic Career Day is cancelled. However, we encourage students to see the "Career Madness" link below with 64 different jobs with direct links to the US Bureau of Labor's fast facts pages on those careers. Many thanks for Barry Goldman, school counselor at Grayslake Central High School in Illinois for creating this activity and sharing with us. Find the "[Career Madness](#)" here:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1od7sYpQzSqeIo2fCtv_kGBrkeSZxPTgEo9dljE4SkqE/edit?usp=sharing

Christian Service

18. My student (underclassmen) has not accumulated all of their required service hours. How can he/she still do this?

Campus Ministry is suspending in-person service requirements in compliance with recommendations for social distancing and the current stay-at-home advisory. **All underclass students are exempt from our service requirement this year. However, we still require all students to reflect on and write about the service they have completed thus far.** Theology Teachers will advise their students about the teacher-specific rubric and due date for completing the Christian Service Reflection Paper as a Fourth Quarter Grade. Additionally, students should be sure that all previously completed service has been logged on MobileServe for recognition by their Theology teacher.

New service hours guidelines have been developed. Please see the Distance Learning page on the Malden Catholic website for the revised [Christian Service](#) requirements:
<https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1585673315/malden/jiz5adzabidqevepsq74/ChristianServiceRevisions.pdf>

19. What will non-AP seniors do during April since they can't go out and do their Christian Service?

New service hours guidelines have been developed for seniors. Please see the Distance Learning page on the Malden Catholic website for the revised [Senior Christian Service](#) requirements:
https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1585073188/malden/lwhvdaao0dwnfj3zhaqx/School_and_College_Counseling-_32420.pdf

20. I'm currently making masks for healthcare and my son is helping me cut out the pattern. Can this be considered community service? Will caring for siblings be considered for Christian Service hours?

We will consider a variety of options for completing student Christian Service requirements. Please have your student contact their Campus Minister to discuss service they are providing in and around the home.

Events, Transportation, Meals

21. Is the semiformal dance for 9th and 10th graders going to be cancelled?

Yes, the semiformal dance has been cancelled.

22. Has the Gala been cancelled?

The Gala been transformed into a virtual event called the **MC UnGala-A Day of Caring** on April 30th. We will have opportunities for celebration and support throughout the day and a presentation at 6 p.m. We will all hold a live celebration for our honorees at the SFX Reception which will be held on October 1, 2020. More information is available regarding the [UnGala](#) on the MC website:

https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1585073188/malden/lwhvdaao0dwnfj3zhaqx/School_and_College_Counseling-32420.pdf

23. What is happening with spring sports?

Our Athletic Director has been working with the MIAA and fellow Athletic Directors to plan and adjust the spring sports season. If school resumes on May 4, 2020, the spring sports season shall begin no earlier than May 4 and the regular season and tournament games will be completed by June 27, 2020. We will provide updated spring sports season information as it is made available on the [Distance Learning](#) page of the Malden Catholic website:

<https://www.maldencatholic.org/academics/distance-learning>

24. Is the spring musical still going to happen?

The spring musical will be postponed until the fall.

25. Is Moms in Prayer meetings going to be virtual at this time?

We are not currently holding Moms in Prayer at this time. The Campus Ministry team is looking into new opportunities and will keep us updated with future opportunities for faith formation.

26. I funded the lunch account. Will credits be made available for next year?

All lunch credits for grades 9 – 11 will be transferred and made available for use during the next school year. Upon successfully graduating, seniors will be given a lunch account refund.

27. Yearbook

Senior yearbooks are included in the tuition. Grades 9 – 11 can [order yearbooks](#) until April 1st. Parents and family members can continue to place yearbook ads until June 1.

<https://www.jostens.com/apps/store/customer/1065775/Malden-Catholic-School-for-Boys/>

Seniors

28. Will seniors be expected to return after May 4?

We believe that we will need to have the seniors come back to touch base with teachers and prepare for graduation. Those taking Advanced Placement courses would continue to attend these classes to review for exams.

29. What is going to happen with commencement exercises?

We have postponed the commencement exercises for the time being. Once we know when we can return to school, we will reschedule the event and let you know about the graduation date and format. We are committed to honoring our seniors.

30. What is the last day of classes for seniors?

The 3rd quarter officially ends on April 3rd. A grading period/grace period for make-up work, research papers and test corrections will extend through April 9.

31. What is going to happen with junior/senior prom?

The junior/senior prom is cancelled at this time. We will consider hosting a modified event if we return to the school on May 4.

32. How do I find out the end of the year requirements and schedule of events for seniors?

We will develop a list of events for seniors and distribute to their families.

33. Can I still write checks for senior events?

Please do not send in any checks at this time for senior events. We will revisit the senior events once school has moved back to the MC campus. If a check has been sent in for one of these events, we will hold the check and not cash it until the final decisions has been made.

Construction

34. How is the pandemic affecting the summer construction plans?

We are looking carefully at this and we may need to put these plans on hold for the time being. One challenge will be the impact of the virus on the ability to get materials and permits. We should have more information about our plans in the near future.

35. If the summer construction does not occur, will there be enough room for all the students?

There will be plenty of room for all the students if we hold off on the summer construction. Many of the improvements were designed to accommodate student number two years from now.

COVID-19 Reporting

36. Can the school share if anyone had already had Coronavirus?

If a member of the school community - faculty, staff, coach, student, or immediate household member - tests positive for COVID-19, please report this information to the school nurse, Elizabeth Paquette. Please call her at 617.645.5331. Because this is a matter of Public Health, please provide this information immediately. The School Nurse will then notify the Assistant Principal of School Life who will determine the next steps based on privacy and confidentiality. The Department of Public Health may also contact the School Nurse to notify of positive cases within the Malden Catholic Community. More information regarding **MC's COVID-19 Response** can be found here: <https://www.maldencatholic.org/about-us/covid-19-response>