

Q&A from Malden Catholic Distance Learning Webinars

This document lists the questions asked during the Parent Distance Learning Update webinars. Answers are provided after each question. If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact Headmaster Thornburg at thornburgj@maldencatholic.org.

ASSIGNMENTS/SCHEDULES

1. Lighter Schedule on the New Model: With the new class model, it looks like they won't have certain classes every day, it looks light. Will this model be enough? Does this model fulfill the educational requirements for the school/state?

Answer: Although the new Monday through Thursday class schedule seems different from the schedule we followed in school, our new model fulfills the standards of distance learning excellence and provides us the ability to cover the planned curriculum for this school year. The combination of online instruction and built-in time to apply what was learned and complete homework provides a meaningful and engaging learning program. In fact, the total learning time per week in the distance model is 210 minutes/week/class which is nearly the same as what was provided in school with 215 minutes of learning time/school week.

We feel confident that when students use both the direct learning time and independent learning time following the class, the curriculum will be fulfilled by year end.

Malden Catholic has always exceeded the state standards and the standards set forth by our accrediting organization – the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). This model will allow us to continue to meet and/or exceed these standards.

2. Assigning and Posting Assignments: Teachers have been posting assignments in different ways. Will all assignments be posted in a uniform way and not make my student go to multiple sites?

Answer: Homework will be posted by 8:00 a.m. each morning for that day. Homework will only be posted on the days the class meets. This will allow students to be better organized and focus on the homework immediately after a lecture/presentation. All teachers will post homework on Lancer Link, the same way they would during the school year.

3. Homework: Will all homework be due by Friday? What if the homework is late? Will homework be assigned at night? Will there be time to finish homework at night?

Answer: All homework for the day (Monday - Thursday) will be assigned by 8:00 a.m. the day a course meets. The due date for homework is unique to each teacher. New homework will not be assigned on Fridays or in the evenings.

If a student is not able to keep up on assigned classwork, they should contact their teacher for an extension. Depending on circumstances, a teacher may provide an extension to have work completed on Friday.

4. Tests: How will tests be conducted?

Answer: Online assessments will be used to test students. The type of assessment and assignment method will be unique to each teacher, subject area and type of material.

5. Wellness: What does wellness entail for each division? Will Wellness be a Zoom class or is it on the student's own time?

Answer: We want our students to develop healthy life habits that lead to a balanced life. We strongly recommend that each student utilize this time for wellness/fitness activities. Wellness will not be a Zoom class. Wellness is a time for students to do wellness activities on their own. There won't be a need to sign up for a wellness class.

6. Gym: What will the kids do if gym is scheduled?

Answer: Physical education meets just as other classes will meet. The teacher, Mr. Bavaro, will hold a Zoom session based upon his curriculum.

7. Fridays: What is the structure for Fridays?

Answer: The structure is flexible on Fridays. It is time for students to work independently and complete assigned work or take care of other responsibilities associated with school. Teachers will provide office hours as well for students to receive individualized help.

8. Finals: How will finals work?

Answer: Our hope is that we will be back on May 4th and will hold finals as scheduled.

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

Answer: Classes have continued since the beginning of the crisis and we are currently planning to assign number grades for this year, which are translated into letter grades.

10. Cheating: I overheard a student taking a quiz and using text photos with answers. How will you control cheating?

Answer: We have invested resources into several different online programs that deter or detect homework/assessments that are not a student's original work. If a student is caught cheating, we will deal with as we would any breach in our honor code. The student's parents will be contacted, the student will receive a zero for their work and if it occurs again the student is subject to further disciplinary action that could result in expulsion.

11. Student Participation: Would we get emails from teachers if our student is not participating or doing their best? Should we assume that our student is doing good if we don't hear from the teachers?

Answer: Our teachers have done a great job making sure parents are kept in the loop. If you student is not meeting expectations the teacher or one of the principals will contact the parents. If you have not been contacted, chances are your student is doing well. With that being said, we do encourage parents to periodically send teachers an email to check in regarding their student's progress.

12. Responsiveness: How long before we can expect a response from a teacher?

Answer: MC teachers are expected to respond to emails within 24 hours.

13. Teacher Emails: How do I get the teacher emails?

Answer: Teacher emails are located on the Malden Catholic website.

VIDEO USE/ATTIRE

14. Security of Zoom: Can you purchase upgrades to make it safe?

Answer: 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.

15. iPads and Phones for Video Class: Can my student be on the video class with and iPad or a phone?

Answer: We would prefer that students use iPads or laptops due to the larger screens.

16. Attire: What do the students need to wear for class? Do they need to wear uniform shirts?

Answer: It would be great if students wore their Malden Catholic attire, but uniform shirts are not required. An appropriate Tag Day shirt is all that is needed. Students who are not dressed appropriately will not be allowed to participate in the class.

17. Video Image of Student's Face: Does a student need to show his face on the video?

Answer: To be accounted as present for the class, the student needs to show his/her face. We realize some students may not want to show his/her face due to comfort level. Parents should reach out to the Principals to have a discussion if their son or daughter does not want to use his or her webcam.

18. No Photos During Remote Learning: How do we communicate that our child does not want pictures taken while remote learning? My son was afraid to put on camera because he was afraid kids might screenshot him. Is there a way to prevent that from happening?

Answer: Taking photos or screenshots of other students or teachers without their permission is a serious breach in our MC student expectations. Should a photograph appear without permission, please notify the Principals immediately. The offending student will be suspended from the course and may not be allowed to return.

SCHEDULES

19. Extended School Year: Will the school year be extended?

Answer: We are currently planning to follow the original school year calendar. 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

20. Will there be a spring break this year?

Answer: We are following the original school calendar and will keep spring break as planned.

21. When is the last day of school?

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

COURSE SCHEDULING

22. Course Scheduling: Did the students get their schedules for next year?

Answer: School and College counseling will be reaching out to each student individually for scheduling courses for next year. If your student has not heard from their counselor, please be patient. The students will be contacted within the next couple of weeks.

POSTING GRADES

23. When will teachers post grades?

Answer: Grades for the third quarter will be mailed on 4.3.20. Grades for the 4th quarter will be mailed on 6.11.20.

HONOR ROLL

24. Honor Roll: Will students on Honor Roll 3rd semester be recognized?

Answer: Yes, the leadership is discussing ways in which to recognize the honor roll students.

CLUBS

25. Clubs: Will clubs be meeting? One club that has activity during this year that will impact next year is Habitats for Humanity. Are there any considerations made specifically for it?

Answer: MC clubs are not currently meeting. We are honoring the order for Shelter in Place and will discuss all clubs and charitable organized events when the order is lifted.

SAT/ACT

26. Is the SAT scheduled for June 6 cancelled?

Answer: The April SAT is cancelled but the June 6 date is still scheduled. 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.

27. When will the juniors take their spring ACT?

Answer: 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.

28. SAT Review and AP Prep on Friday: On a few Fridays, is it possible to hold SAT review seminar? Can you offer AP prep sessions on Friday?

Answer: There are several resources that students can take advantage of to prepare for the SAT and the ACT. Our AP courses will be using class time to review for the upcoming exams. Students will also have the opportunity to form study groups on Fridays.

CONSTRUCTION

29. Plans: How is the pandemic affecting the summer construction plans?

Answer: 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.

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

Answer: There will be plenty of room for all the students if we hold off on the summer construction. All classes scheduled to run next year will have enough space in the current facility.

CHRISTIAN SERVICE

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

Answer: Campus Ministry is suspending in-person service requirements in compliance with recommendations for social distancing and the current stay-at-home advisory. **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](https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1585673315/malden/jiz5adzabidqevepsq74/ChristianServiceRevisions.pdf) requirements:
<https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1585673315/malden/jiz5adzabidqevepsq74/ChristianServiceRevisions.pdf>

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

Answer: 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](https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1585073188/malden/lwhvdaao0dwnfj3zhaqx/School_and_College_Counseling-32420.pdf) requirements:
https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1585073188/malden/lwhvdaao0dwnfj3zhaqx/School_and_College_Counseling-32420.pdf

MORNING PRAYER

33. Morning Prayer: Can morning prayer be on Zoom?

Answer: Morning prayer is now being recorded by our Campus Ministry team Monday through Thursday and posted on MC YouTube channel. We are also sharing the prayer on our social media. <https://www.youtube.com/user/TheMaldenCatholic>

THE FALL- DISTANCE LEARNING

34. Distance Learning for the Fall: I read an Inside Higher Education article today that said that there is a possibility in-person learning will not happen in the fall. Are there any thoughts or plans if we will have remote/online learning in the fall?

Answer: While we hope and are planning for classes to begin normally in the fall, it is possible that the virus could disrupt this plan. Malden Catholic is leading the way in distance learning and would be able to provide a valuable and engaging learning experience both in the school and through virtual platforms.

DISTANCE LEARNING WEB PAGE

35. How do I access the Distance Learning page on the MC Website?

Answer: There is a Distance Learning button on the MC Website home page.
<https://www.maldencatholic.org/academics/distance-learning>

SENIORS

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

Answer: 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.

2. What is going to happen with commencement exercises?

Answer: 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.

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

Answer: 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.

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

Answer: 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.

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

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

6. Can I still write checks for senior events?

Answer: 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.