

Monty Tech Family Frequently Asked Questions

Updated: March 17, 2020

As mandated by Governor Charlie Baker, the Monty Tech School District is enacting a closure of school from March 17 - April 6, 2020. This closure applies to all classes, the Continuing Education Program, spring sports, the Child Care Center and school-related activities across the district.

The information detailed in this document is intended to provide guidance for this period of school closure only. It is important to note that this is a fluid situation and so this document will be regularly updated and modified and it is recommended that you revisit frequently for the latest updates and information.

Frequently Asked Questions Student Learning

Q.	Are the days during the three-week closure counted as “school days?”
A.	No. These are non-school days. These days will essentially be considered a three week school closing period (March 16 th -April 6 th). Unless there is a change by the Governor’s office, students and staff will return to school on April 7 th . It is important to note that the school year will not extend beyond the 185 th school day which is June 18 th .
Q.	Are there expectations around Distance and Online Learning Expectations for Students or Teachers?
A.	<p>Yes, as noted in a recent School Messenger call, in order to simply sustain the continuity of learning for Monty Tech students and maintain the teacher/student connection during this closure period, teachers will soon begin to assign students supplemental enrichment learning activities. Students will be able to access these assignments by our various online platforms such as Google Classroom, Khan Academy, the RemindApp and Schoology. In some cases, the instructor may simply send the assignment via school email. Please note that the focus of these activities is to support a student’s existing knowledge and skill proficiency. Deadlines will be determined by individual teachers.</p> <p>If students do not see any communications from a teacher or if they have questions regarding a specific assignment, then we would encourage them to reach out to their instructors via email or Google classroom to request clarification/seek additional support.</p>

Q.	What resources are available for teachers, parents, and students to enrich learning during this period of closure?
A.	<p>We are continuing to compile resources and links for all students and will share that information here.</p> <p>Supplemental Classroom Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Google Classroom or Schoology - see specific course syllabi for sign-in information <p>Supplemental Digital Resources to Support Students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Library's Main Page: http://montytech.libguides.com/homepage
Q.	Given a three-week closure, what happens with the MCAS ELA test for sophomore students?
A.	At this time, we will not be in school during the previously scheduled MCAS window. We expect to hear more from DESE in the near future on this topic as a great many schools are in the same position.

Frequently Asked Questions Special Education

Q.	My child is on an IEP or 504 Plan, and I am concerned about the implications of the closure on my child's educational progress.
A.	<p>Upon the conclusion of the school closure, and the re-opening of the district, IEP teams will be available to convene to determine what type of impact the closure had on your child's educational progress, and make individualized team based decisions as needed.</p> <p>Please refer to the Special Education Parent Letter.</p>
Q.	My child is on an IEP and receives "services only" (i.e. speech/physical therapy/occupational therapy). Will my child receive these services during the closure?
A.	No, similar to snow days, services will not be provided during the closure.
Q.	Will my child's special education liaison, related service provider, and the Director of Student Support Services be available if I have a question during this three-week closure?

A.	Yes, special education teachers, related services providers, as well as the Director of Student Support Services will be available to assist with specific questions as needed. While not mandatory during this closure, our special education staff will be extending their support to your child during this time of distance learning via email, Google classroom, Remind application, and other agreed upon methods. Our staff wishes to promote student success and requests that if your child or student does struggle to understand an enrichment concept or activity, that an email is sent letting the Learning Support teacher know additional support is requested. Additionally, teachers may be reaching out to ensure students are supported.
Q.	I am looking for general tips on how to support my child during this three-week closure.
A.	Please refer to the Family Resources During the Closure document.

Frequently Asked Questions Activities, Events, and Athletics

Q.	Are there any athletic, club, or activity events happening during this period of closure?
A.	No. All school-related events are cancelled during this period.
Q.	Are Spring Sports delayed?
A.	<i>Yes. After much discussion, the MIAA decided to delay the start of the 2020 spring season to April 27th, 2020.</i>

Frequently Asked Questions General Questions

Q.	Currently the schools are closed through April 6, 2020. Will this be extended? How will we be notified?
A.	The Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School will monitor this fluid situation and will continue to follow the directives of Governor Baker and DESE as future decisions are made. Information will continue to be provided via School Messenger, on our school website (www.montytech.net), via Facebook, and on all major news outlets.
Q.	What will happen to April vacation (April 20-24)?
A.	At this time, the April vacation week is scheduled as planned.

Q.	Will there be access to any school buildings during the March 13 - April 6, 2020 closure?
A.	At this time, all school buildings are closed and school personnel will be working remotely as suggested by the CDC. We encourage students and families to utilize school email to contact school personnel with questions and concerns.
Q.	Will food services be available for students that qualify for free and reduced lunch?
A.	Local communities like Fitchburg, Gardner, Athol/Royalston and Leominster are currently providing access to breakfast and lunch for all students. Please refer to the Family Resources During the COVID-19 Closure document.

Frequently Asked Questions COVID-19 Resources and Support

Q.	Should everyone be practicing social distancing?
A.	It should now be clear to all members of our community that the concept of social distancing is an essential element to limiting the ongoing expansion of the COVID-19 virus. Therefore, we urge students and families to consider their behavior and interaction even while at home during this mandated closure. Please review the recommendations from the CDC via this link - https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/prevention.html
Q.	Who should I contact if I or a family member am diagnosed with the COVID-19 virus?
A.	Upon being diagnosed by your physician, he/she will refer your diagnosis to your local Board of Health who will, then, communicate that information to Monty Tech.
Q.	Where should I go for updates from Monty Tech?
A.	Monty Tech will continue to use the School Messenger system (emails, phone calls) as well as post on the school's webpage (www.montytech.net) and Facebook page.
Q.	How do I contact the school now that the district is closed?
A.	The best way to reach the school will be via email. Please refer to our school staff directory for individual email addresses as found on www.montytech.net .