

Dear MTC Families,

So much has been going through my mind this week as I watch not only what is going on in the world, but also what is going on in our virtual classrooms. So I am going to take a few minutes to share some of these thoughts, suggestions, and overall observations, so I am hopeful to keep your attention.

As a school administrator, I had to consider so many things when we found out, just the same moment everyone else did, that Governor Wolf was shutting down Montco schools. I had been planning a course of action prior to that, and had our Tech coaches meeting with teachers, but the true test came at 2pm last Thursday when everything changed. My immediate reaction was to keep everyone calm....it is a scary thing to know we are forced to close, and I had to somehow convey that to the kids. My next reaction was how are we going to continue to keep kids engaged in instruction without creating a momentous task for the parents and guardians? How can I ensure that the students at MTC will wake up everyday knowing that their world, while changed, is still there and they are still going to get to learn and interact with their friends and teachers? And I think you all know the rest of the story.

Since Monday, I have been in every classroom at least once, and I cannot say enough about what the teachers are doing everyday. It does not escape me that virtual learning is not the easiest to start, and keeping the kids engaged is even more of a task. And yet they are doing it! For the kids, especially in our elementary level, they struggled with the task of navigating through the zoom site, and doing multiple things at once, but each day they have gotten better and better at it! And for our parents and guardians....I have put myself in your shoes as much as I could, and know how this is not easy for you. Each of you are dealing with your own career, your own concerns, and now you need to login to 2nd grade science too? WOW!!!!

To our parents and guardians....we are trying to make life as easy as possible for you during this, while providing your children the best education that they and you deserve! So please....don't let this become a daunting task for you. Reach out to your child's teacher and they will accommodate your needs and your family's needs. I especially have tried to imagine our families with multiple children logging on at once. Again, the teachers know that they will need to accommodate that as well....by offering alternate assignments, recorded lessons to watch when convenient, and constant access to them.

To our students....we all miss seeing your smiling faces everyday. This is a substitute but certainly not a replacement for the interactions we share when we are all in the building together. But know that we are all here to help you and guide you in any way we can. And feel free to send me a hello anytime!!! christine.pagan@mtcschool.org

To our teachers...I am so impressed at how you have pulled this together. No one ever saw this coming, and yet here we are and look at how you have done!! That is the sign of a TRUE TEACHER....one who adapts constantly to the needs of the children because they are who matters in our line of work :)

The overarching theme in all of this to me has been the word that hangs over the doorway leading to our Middle School wing....GRIT. The word itself means courage, resolve, and strength of character. We have all been called on to have courage that we will get through this, resolve that we can only control certain things, and be strong for ourselves and each other. The Acronym we use goes like this....Generosity, Respect, Integrity, and Teamwork. Those 4 attributes are needed so much more now, and I am truly blessed and honored to be a part of a community that instills those virtues everyday.

We are in this together. We will get through this together. We will be stronger when it's over together.

I will end with a verse from Deuteronomy...*Be strong and steadfast; have no fear or dread of them, for it is the LORD, your God, who marches with you; he will never fail you or forsake you*