

Martin County School District COVID-19 Update

On Friday, March 13, 2020, the [Florida Department of Education \(FDOE\)](#) **issued a recommendation** that all Florida school districts extend their Spring Breaks by adding one additional week in an effort to prevent the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19). On Tuesday, March 17, 2020, FDOE issued an additional recommendation that schools remain closed through April 15, 2020. As such, **all schools operated by the Martin County School District will remain closed through April 15, 2020.**

During this time, we are committed to providing daily updates to students and parents that will address questions and concerns, as well as provide updates on the measures taken by staff to ensure that the District remains in compliance with all FDOE recommendations related to school closures.

March 27, 2020 Update

All Florida school districts will remain closed through April 15.

All school and District events, athletic contests, field trips and activities have been canceled through April 15. Information about events and activities scheduled after that date will be shared as it becomes available.

All statewide assessments have been canceled for the remainder of this school year.

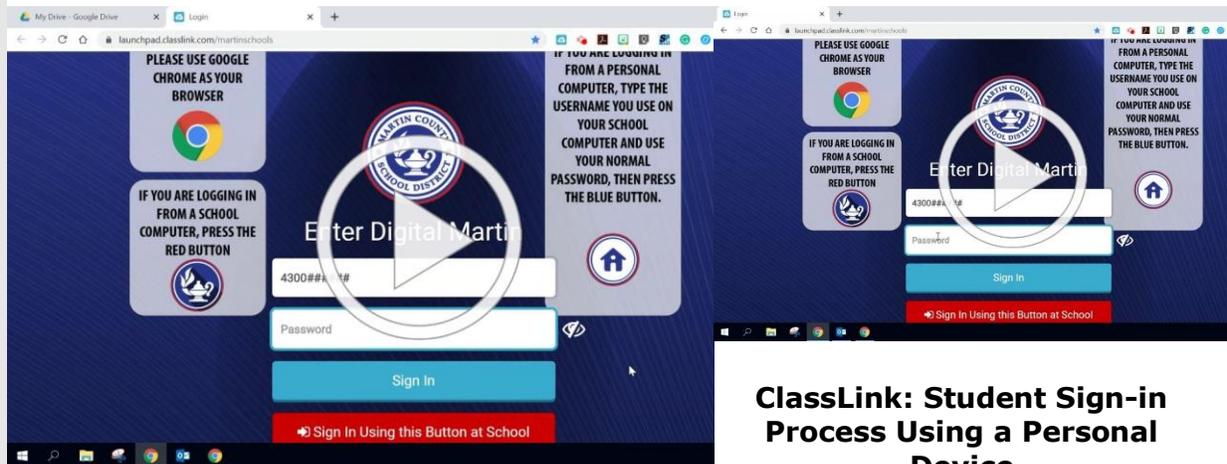
Messages to Families from Instructional Services

The Martin County School District is using Google Classroom for virtual instruction. [Please click here to view our instructional continuity \(digital learning\) plan.](#)

Here is important information for you to know about your child's Google Classroom:

- If you have a child in **middle or high school**, the [Google Classroom](#) codes will be posted in [Focus](#). There is a specific column in [Focus](#) where the Classroom codes are located.
- For children in **elementary schools**, the teacher is enrolling and entering the students in the [Google Classroom](#). Please have your child log on to the child's Google account to view the [Google Classroom](#). The elementary school related arts [Google Classroom](#) codes will be sent through your child's teacher.
- If you have questions, please contact your child's teacher or school administrator via e-mail.

The Martin County School District will begin digital instruction for students on **Monday, March 30, 2020**. During this time, teachers will use the District's comprehensive collection of online content and digital resources to prepare lessons and activities that will be accessed by your child. Please click through the video links below to learn more about the platforms your child will use as part of the digital learning process.



ClassLink: Student Sign-in Process Using a Personal Device

ClassLink: Student Sign-in Process Using a District Device

Laptop Distribution, Service and Support

The Martin County School District has prepared for distance learning by distributing laptops to students that do not have a personal device to use outside the classroom.

Laptop distribution took place Wednesday, March 25 - Friday, March 27 at each District-operated school. Families that indicated their child(ren) did not have access to a laptop, desktop or tablet in their home were provided with one (1) device per family to use for digital learning.

The District's Educational Technology (ET) Department has established a dedicated email address for parents and students to use when reporting hardware (including damage) and software concerns related to their District-issued devices. This email address is MCSDLaptops@martinschools.org.

Beginning Monday, March 30, the District's Educational Technology Department will begin offering technical support to parents and students who have attempted to use the email help desk option, but are still experiencing hardware or software issues with their District-issued device. Staff will assess reported issues and either repair devices while parents and students wait or issue a replacement device.

Parents and students must email concerns about their device to MCSDLaptops@martinschools.org prior to reporting to one of the following sites for assistance:

- **Hobe Sound Elementary School**
11555 SE Gomez Avenue, Hobe Sound, FL 33455
- **J.D. Parker Elementary School**
1010 E. 10th Street, Stuart, FL 34994
- **Port Salerno Elementary School**
3260 SE Lionel Terrace, Stuart, FL 34997
- **Warfield Elementary School**
15260 SW 150th Street, Indiantown, FL 34956

On-site technical support will be available Monday - Friday from 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Technology Resources

Comcast has taken steps to implement the following new policies for the next 60 days:

- **Xfinity WiFi Free For Everyone:** Xfinity WiFi hotspots across the country will be available to anyone who needs them for free – including non-Xfinity Internet subscribers. For a map of Xfinity WiFi hotspots, visit www.xfinity.com/wifi. Once at a hotspot, consumers should select the “xfinitywifi” network name in the list of available hotspots and then launch a browser.
- **Internet Essentials Free to New Customers:** As announced yesterday, it’s even easier for low-income families who live in a Comcast service area to sign-up for the Internet Essentials program. New customers will receive 60 days of complimentary Internet Essentials service, which is normally available to all qualified low-income households for \$9.95/month. Additionally, for all new and existing Internet Essentials customers, the speed of the program’s Internet service has been increased to 25 Mbps downstream and 3 Mbps upstream. That increase will go into effect for no additional fee and it will become the new base speed for the program going forward. [Learn more...](#)

Free Meals for Children

The Martin County School District’s Food & Nutrition Services (FNS) Department will serve free meals to children in the Martin County community from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Monday, March 23 – Wednesday, April 15 2020. Meals will be served to children aged 18 and under at the following locations:

- **Hobe Sound Elementary School**
11555 SE Gomez Avenue, Hobe Sound, FL 33455
- **J.D. Parker Elementary School**
1010 E. 10th Street, Stuart, FL 34994

- **Jensen Beach Elementary School**
2525 N.E. Savannah Road, Jensen Beach, FL 34957
*****New site - will open March 30, 2020*****

- **Port Salerno Elementary School**
3260 SE Lionel Terrace, Stuart, FL 34997

- **Warfield Elementary School**
15260 SW 150th Street, Indiantown, FL 34956

*****FNS is now providing meal service to St. Lucie Mobile Village in Indiantown.*****

FNS managers and staff will be on-site to prepare and distribute breakfasts and lunches, which will be bagged and distributed to families in each school's car line area. Parents and guardians can drive, bike, or walk to these locations with children. Meals will be provided to anyone present who is 18 years of age or younger. **More than 5,000 meals were served to Martin County children this week!**

"We will be providing breakfast and lunch items via cart service, with carts being thoroughly sanitized after each meal is provided," **FNS Director Laura Holmedal** shared. "Families may pick up both meals at the same time if they prefer. Those in the community who are looking for a way to help ensure children receive meals are encouraged to explore carpooling possibilities. We are able to provide meals to all children who are present."

Effective March 27, 2020, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services **will not require students to be present to receive meals**, but parents/guardians should be prepared to provide one of the following documents to receive a meal for their child(ren) who are not present:

- School ID (any school - MCSD-operated school, charter or private)
- Birth certificate/passport/religious record
- Daycare record

Hours of operation at each site are subject to change depending on community participation.

Additional questions about the meal program should be directed to Food & Nutrition Services at **(772) 223-2655**.

The [**Boys & Girls Clubs of Martin County \(BGCMC\)**](#) will provide meals to **all Martin County families at each Club location**. Since March 17 from 4 to 7 p.m., (BGCMC) has provided free meals to children under age 18—regardless if they ever belonged to a club—at its four club locations (listed below).

Families are also able to pick up free, ready-to-eat meals each day from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

“Many parents, grandparents, guardians and caregivers are telling us how grateful they are to know that their children can now consistently get something to eat—even if they personally have no idea where their next meal will come from,” says Keith “Fletch” Fletcher, CEO of BGCMC. “We wanted to remedy this situation however possible and make sure their caregivers are able to at least get one meal a day. We plan on continuing this effort as long as we’re able,” he shared.

- Cole-Clark Club 11500 SE Lares Avenue, Hobe Sound
- Bill & Barbara Whitman Club 17375 SW Palm Beach Street, Indiantown
- H. Wayne Huizenga Club 1150 SW Martin Downs Boulevard, Palm City
- John & Marge Bolton Club 4731 SE Flounder Avenue, Stuart

Effective immediately, [House of Hope**](#) pantries will start prepackaged food distributions directly into client's vehicles.** Clients will be signed in and emergency service allotments will be offered as appropriate. Clients on foot and bicycle will also be served but no one will enter the pantries.

If you are new to House of Hope, be sure to bring the following information needed to access service:

- Picture ID
- Proof of Martin County residency (current lease, mortgage or utility bill within the last 30 days. A utility bill may be either, lights, water or gas bill.)

- If you have any questions or need to speak about financial assistance while pantry locations are closed to foot traffic, call **(772) 286-4673**.

The [Education Foundation of Martin County \(EFMC\)](#) continues to partner with the Martin County School District to meet the needs of teachers. **EFMC is currently fundraising and securing donations to purchase laptops for more than 200 MCSD teachers, which will assist them in being able to deliver digital lessons to students from their homes while schools are closed.** To learn more or make a donation, please [click here](#).

Educational Resources for Families

Keep calm and learn on, Martin County!

Wondering what virtual instruction will look like for your child and how you can support their learning process? [Check out the Martin County Parents' Guide to Google Classroom here](#).

Students now have access to **free, live Advanced Placement review lessons given by AP teachers from across the US**. The classes are optional, mobile-friendly and designed to be used with work that may be given by schools. [Click here](#) to learn more.

[Khan Academy](#) has compiled great daily learning schedules for students to use when school is not in session. These lessons and resources (including AP and SAT test prep) are 100% free. Schedules are broken up by age group and include time for meals and play/leisure. [Click here](#) to learn more.

The Florida Department of Education's CPALMS virtual student center is a great online learning resource. Browse tutorials and other resources broken up by grade and subject level at floridastudents.org.

[PBS Kids](#) has started a weekday newsletter that offers activities and tips parents can use to help children play and learn at home. [Click here](#) to sign up.

Community Health

A local state of emergency has been declared.

Cleveland Clinic Martin Health is now performing drive-through testing at Martin North Hospital for influenza and COVID-19 by appointment only.

Testing will only be performed for individuals who meet [Florida Department of Health criteria](#) for COVID-19. If individuals do not meet criteria, testing will not be performed.

For an appointment, individuals who may have symptoms must call **(772) 419-3360**, between 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. For additional information about Cleveland Clinic Martin Health drive-through testing for COVID-19, visit martinhealth.org.

United Way Resources

To assist Martin County individuals and families who are impacted by COVID-19, United Way of Martin County is launching the COVID-19 Community Economic Relief Fund and has authorized up to \$200,000 from our emergency fund to aid

in recovery efforts. We are working with local direct service organizations to disseminate emergency funds with the appropriate sense of urgency.

If you need help:

If you are unable to meet basic needs like housing, food and healthcare, please reach out to the following partners who we will be working with to distribute funds to individuals and families in need:

- House of Hope: **(772) 286-4673**
- Salvation Army of Martin County: **(772) 288-1471**

If you can help:

We anticipate the need to gather significantly more funding to assist Martin County residents and are seeking additional contributions. 100% of donations will go toward the relief funds – no administrative fees will be taken.

As with the prior emergency funds managed by United Way, safeguards will be put in place to ensure these funds are used effectively and appropriately. Organizations receiving grants will be required to report back on use of the monies granted. [Learn more and contribute.](#)

Other resources:

The 211 Helpline is available 24/7 to connect you with resources for food, mental health, legal support and more. Those in need of help can dial 2-1-1, (561) 383-1112, or text their zip code to TXT211 (898211). 2-1-1 service is free, confidential and 24/7.

Beaches, Park Facilities, Libraries and Programs Now Closed

Beaches

To protect the health and well-being of residents and visitors, Martin County will be closing all county-owned beaches to public access until further notice. This

does not apply to property owners, residents and visitors at beachfront properties, who may access the beach via private access. The beach closure went into effect at sunset Sunday, March 22. The closure includes Sand Dune Cafe at Jensen Beach.

Parks

Sailfish Splash Waterpark (including lap swimming) will be closed to the public beginning Tuesday, March 17. The facility will remain closed until further notice.

Reservations are no longer being accepted for the Adventure Platform Tents at Phipps Park until further notice. Existing, upcoming reservations will be cancelled and patrons will receive a full refund. RV and primitive camping at the facility will continue normal operations.

In addition, all organized programs and special events hosted at Martin County Parks and Recreation Department facilities, with the exception of spring break camp, are cancelled until further notice.

All state parks are currently closed.

Libraries

All branches of the Martin County Library System will close to the public beginning Wednesday, March 18. In addition, all events, programs, and classes will be cancelled, including BookMania.

No materials will be due, and no fines will accrue on closed days. While libraries are closed, the following services will be provided:

- Hold pick-up at each location (during normal library hours)
- Email and telephone reference (during normal library hours)
- Downloadable eBooks and eAudio (24 hours a day/7 days a week)
- Online classes through Lynda.com (24 hours a day/7 days a week)

Please note that all closures are subject to change based on current conditions.

Protecting Your Health

1) Find Local Information

[Click here](#) to find local information on COVID-19 from the Florida Department of Health in Martin County (DOH Martin).

2) Know the Signs & Symptoms

[Know the signs and symptoms](#) of COVID-19 and what to do if symptomatic:

- Stay home when you are sick
- Call your health care provider's office in advance of a visit
- Self-isolate for 14 days if you are returning home from travel to a Level 2 or 3 destination (including a cruise)
- Limit movement in the community
- Limit visitors

3) Take Steps for Those at Higher Risk

Know what additional measures should be taken by the medically vulnerable and those at [higher risk](#) of contracting COVID-19.

4) Protect Yourself & Family

Implement [steps to prevent illness](#) (e.g., stay home when sick, handwashing, respiratory etiquette, cleaning frequently touched surfaces daily).

**Martin County School
District | martinschools.org**

