

MACOMB ACADEMY

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Dr. Anne-Marie Sladewski
Executive Director

October 23, 2020

Dear Macomb Academy students, guardians and support network,

I hope the time since my last communication has found you settling into the routines that come with the change of seasons and different activities. As we have settled into the routine of the start of this year with remote learning, the home-school partnership we have cultivated together is even more important now than ever before. Our partnership had led to safe and creative solutions. I appreciate your support and flexibility as necessary adjustments had to be made along the way to our start date for in-person learning. We need to continue to have patience and understanding as we respond to new conditions that impact and influence the decisions made about students returning to the building.

In my last letter, I extended the continuation of learning while at home for all students, with the furthest date to return for in-person instruction on Monday, November 9, 2020. I am writing to let you know that during the recent board meeting on October 22, the Macomb Academy Board of Directors voted to extend continuing to learn while at home for the remainder of the first semester, which ends on Friday, January 22, 2021. In-person instruction is expected to begin on Monday, January 25, 2021, or sooner, depending on conditions impacting the ability to do so.

As you know, with a global pandemic under way, and the number of positive cases continuing to increase in the state and our geographic region, the health, safety and well-being of our entire Macomb Academy community are the considerations we keep at the forefront of every conversation and decision made. Among other topics and agenda items, this year the board is required to review during its monthly meetings the Extended Contingency Learning Plan (ECLP) submitted to the Michigan Department of Education, attendance data, and the status of school operations to provide confirmation of the process of teaching and learning, and explore every option and opportunity to bring back students to the building for in-person learning. As a public meeting, you are welcome to attend and provide comments. Information regarding the board meetings is posted on our website. Currently, meetings are held virtually, as allowable by SB 1108 signed into law by Governor Whitmer on October 16, 2020, and will continue through December 31, 2020. Information for upcoming meetings is included on the enclosed flyer.

In many ways, our Macomb Academy community reflects our state and even our country. Some feel we are moving too quickly to return to school; others feel we are moving too slowly. Regardless of where individuals stand, the Board of Directors and I invite, listen to, and consider all perspectives. Please continue to communicate with us. Our commitment is to reopen school as soon as possible when a safe and positive learning environment can occur.

Since September, we have provided the continuation of learning while at home through a virtual

mode of instruction using the ZOOM platform and following the requirements detailed in the ECLP. I am very happy and proud to report an average weekly attendance rate of 93%, with our students participating and actively engaged in the learning process through lively teaching and connected learning. We will continue with this same level of success and build on it while remaining with remote learning.

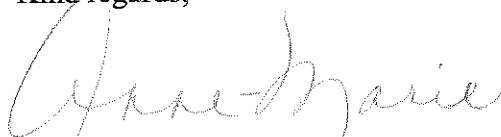
Please plan to attend a Macomb Academy Community Forum on Wednesday, November 3, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. It is an opportunity to share information about the return to school update and talk about how we are working best to support students, support networks and staff. Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS) will participate at the beginning and provide information on pre-employment and employment transition services available to students. Even while students are continuing to learn while at home, MRS and Macomb Academy continue to partner on behalf of our students for a seamless transition to competitive employment, internships or volunteer experiences. Those not quite ready for employment are eligible for pre-employment experiences. In many ways, this is a perfect time for students to have an open case with MRS while we have great opportunity to provide pre-employment and employment preparation and training through MRS classes and experiences. Students with open cases can take advantage of these valuable and worthwhile resources, and every Macomb Academy student is eligible to work with MRS in either a pre-employment or employment transition capacity. Please plan to attend and learn about the opportunities available through MRS. The information for the community forum is on the enclosed flyer.

Over the past two months, we have eager students logging in to ZOOM and actively participating in meaningful, relevant and connected learning provided by enthusiastic and ready staff in the areas of independent living and employment preparation and training. Our students are learning and gaining new and necessary life skills that would not have been possible without their rising to the challenges of a new mode of learning through remote instruction. These are moments to celebrate!

The Board of Directors and I continue to need your support and partnership as we navigate the adaptations required with the evolving conditions of COVID-19. I have deeply appreciated your suggestions, feedback, and communication. I encourage you to continue. There will inevitably be lessons learned and new information that will cause us to grow and adjust our practices as we continue with learning while at home, and reintegrate when we return to the building. On behalf of the board, I thank you for your flexibility and patience as we partner to walk through this together. Working together, we are succeeding.

As always, I welcome and enjoy your thoughts and comments, and invite you to reach out to me. Live well and remember to mask up, wash up, and in the spirit of the flu season, roll up your sleeve to keep influenza from putting you and your loved ones further at risk in this pandemic year.

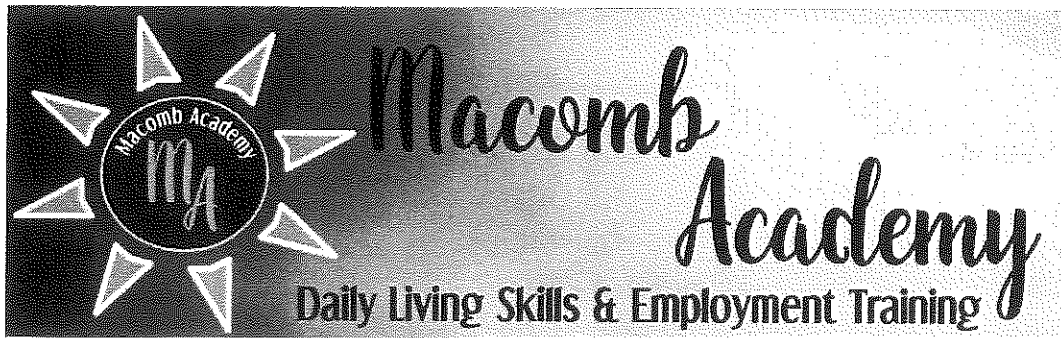
Kind regards,



Anne-Marie Sladewski, Ed.D.

Executive Director

*** Please refer to the information on both sides of this document ***



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

October 23, 2020 Update

Return to School

Until further notice, all students will continue to learn while at home.

Remote learning while at home for all students **EXTENDED** through the end of the first semester.

Return to school is expected on Monday, January 25, 2021 for those who elect in-person instruction.

Macomb Academy may open for in-person learning before Monday, January 25, 2021, pending approval of Board of Directors.

Learning while at Home

ZOOM Instruction

Monday - Thursday

Whole Group Classroom: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Individualized Support: Arranged individually

Takes place during the afternoon and on Friday

Friday: Students work independently on the assigned project related to the instruction provided during the week. Support provided and scheduled in collaboration with students/guardians/support networks and provided by Macomb Academy staff members.

Wear School Clothes

- Pants, slacks, jeans
- Shirts with short or long sleeves
- School appropriate graphics and words
- Dresses and skirts at fingertip length (may wear leggings underneath)
- Shoes appropriate for your home

*** Please refer to the information on both sides of this document ***

Macomb Academy Community Forum

Return to School Conversation

AND

Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS) Information Session

Pre-Employment AND Employment Transition Services

ZOOM information below and sent to you through E-Mail
Please call Macomb Academy for meeting access assistance

Day and Date: Wednesday, November 4, 2020

Time: 6:30 p.m.

ZOOM

Meeting ID: 969 2913 7831 **Password:** 29093

Dial-In Phone Access: (929) 205-6099

Use Meeting ID and Password at prompts

Internet Hyperlink Access

<https://zoom.us/j/96929137831?pwd=YUxsVm5PSjZaajNUcWtESHpOdHJWdz09>

Macomb Academy Board of Directors Meetings

4:30 p.m.

*Remote access information and draft meeting agenda posted on the
Macomb Academy website at least 18 hours prior to the start of the meeting*

November 19, 2020 *

December 17, 2020 *

January 21, 2021

February 18, 2021

March 18, 2021

April 15, 2021

May 20, 2021

June 17, 2021

(*) Virtual Meeting as allowed by law through December 31, 2020.

Meetings between January 1 - December 31, 2021 require a decree of a state of emergency disaster or epidemic to be conducted virtually.