



MEMPHIS MERIT ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL
4775 American Way, Memphis, TN 38118
(901)-617-3690
SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

"Memphis Merit be nimble... Memphis Merit be quick... Get your education in just one click!"
-Mrs. Booker

March 27, 2020

Dear **Memphis Merit Academy Founding Families**,

We are so excited to end this week strong with Week 1 of Memphis Merit Academy's Distance Learning Program! We had several scholars join us this week online to receive help with their Extended Spring Break Packet. Remember, the Extended Spring Break packet is intended to support your scholar through April 6th. School leadership will be in communication with families about packets after this time for coursework. In addition, there are resources constantly available on our website for your child to continue to practice their grade level skills. The virtual learning platform allows scholars to engage in special education services and ELL services with certified Special Education and ELL teachers.

Our leadership team and founding staff have been working on ways we can continue to support you during this challenging time. The following are updates for this week:

Per the announcement made by Shelby County Schools, Memphis Merit Academy will remain closed until further notice. Our top priority is to keep scholars, families, and staff safe while maintaining a high-quality academic experience. Although scholars received packets of work to suffice the duration of the break, our team has worked tirelessly to ensure every scholar continues to grow their brain. MMA launched our distance learning plan on Tuesday, March 24, 2020 to support scholars with the already assigned coursework and additional work via our distance learning platforms. Please review the following updates for guidance:

UPDATES

- As of now, Memphis Merit Academy **will remain closed on an extended Spring Break until further notice**, due to COVID-19 pandemic and national state of emergency. MMA is following school closure guidance of Shelby County Schools for school closure.
- As of now, there are no known or confirmed COVID-19 cases amongst our scholars, families or staff.

COMMUNICATION

- Our school website hosts ALL the information you need to stay connected and equipped for distance learning. Visit www.memphismeritacademy.org for updates! Our team is constantly making updates.
- **PHONE CALLS.** Your child's teacher has either communicated with you or attempted communication at this point. If you have not heard from your child's teacher, please contact Mrs. Lakenna Booker at 901-240-1009 or lbooker@memphismeritacademy.org to update your contact information. Each family will continue to receive a phone call from your child's teacher to check-in to determine support your family may need during this time to



complete coursework and onboard your family to any aspect of our virtual learning platform. You should have received your child's login credentials in your child's Lifework Folder.

- **SCHEDULED UPDATES.** We will make **weekly updates about extended school closure on Fridays by 4PM, unless it is necessary due to a pertinent change**, for families to continue to plan for potential closures via Facebook, email, and text message.

DISTANCE LEARNING

- **SCHOLAR LIFEWORK.** If your scholar was absent on March 12th, there is a bin outside of the school with packets for you to pickup or you may access them for print [here](#).
- **MORE LIFEWORK.** You will receive more information from the school about future packets. Visit www.memphismeritacademy.org for more activities and work for your child.
- **VIRTUAL SUPPORT.** **Office Hours** have been set up to support scholars in the work packets received prior to school closure. Scholars can check the schedule and logon to receive help with any assignments via Zoom. See the [Lifework Hotline /Virtual Teacher Support](#) Schedule.
- **STUDENT SUPPORTS.** Mrs. Tamika Kemmons-Ford, Student Support Coordinator, Mrs. Annette Allgood, Special Education Assistant, and Ms. Naafi'ah Gooden, ELL Teacher are available online each day to support scholars with their individual needs. Click here to view the [schedule](#).
- **LESSON WARM-UPS.** Within our suggested schedule, our team will provide links to oral drills your child can review while at home. These videos should help your child refresh on the necessary skills to continue to be a strong reader.

FOOD ACCESS UPDATES

- **SCS MEAL SITE DISTRIBUTION UPDATE-** Shelby County School has revised planned meal preparation and community-wide distribution. Please see the full distribution list [here](#) and continue to share with others needing assistance. Also – there are a lot of other businesses that are providing food supports. [McDonalds is giving free breakfast for SCS Students](#) and [Burger King has the following offer: buy an adult meal, get two free kids meals](#)

COMMITMENT TO SCHOLAR GROWTH

- **We are committed to excellence.** This is a new experience for us all, so we ask for your patience during this transition. We will continue to work on this transition to online learning in order to ensure it is the best experience for all involved.
- Teachers are reviewing your child's daily progress on the Dreambox and Lexia platforms to ensure your child is making adequate progress and may decide to host a learning session specifically targeted to your child's needs.

NORMS FOR DISTANCE LEARNING SUCCESS

We have launched Memphis Merit's Distance Learning Program! We are working to maintain a level of excellence to ensure all scholars are able to continue to grow their brains. Here are some reminders for us to maintain excellence:

- **Find a quiet place for your child to participate in Distance Learning.** Organize learning materials and designate a common area for learning. Ideally, the space has a strong Internet/Wifi connection, can be blocked from noise at times, and is located where family members can participate in your child's learning.



- **Make sure your child has their LifeWork Packet available during the session.** Your child's teacher will be ready to go once the time starts for their session!
- **Limit distractions and encourage your child to focus.** Remember, this is the short time we have to grow your scholar's brain. If they are online, they are expected to fully engage in the lesson.
- **Support your child's emotional needs.** In stressful times, children need supportive and stable relationships with trusted adults. Stay close with your child and provide age-appropriate information.
- **Monitor communications from your child's teacher and school.** Check Facebook, email, text, and please return any missed calls from your child's teachers.

Lastly, if you are in need of technology, please contact Betty Mccline, Dean of Operations at 901-930-7032 or email at bmcline@memphisméritacademy.org

We are one school, one vision, together on a mission! Again, all resources can be found on our [website](#).

SHOUT-OUT to HOWARD UNIVERSITY and FREED HARDEMAN for the HIGHEST ATTENDANCE this week!

Committed to excellence,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Lakenna Booker'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Lakenna Booker

Founder and Head of School

Memphis Merit Academy Charter School

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