

2 August 2020

Dear Muizenberg High Matric Parents, Guardians and learners

In lieu of gazetted dates and communication from DBE after Mr Ramaphosa's announcement of further school closure at the end of July, the WCED communicated the following directives to schools in terms of a four-week period:

- WEEK 1: 27- 31 July: ALL WCED schools closed for teaching and learning for ALL grades, including the staff.
- WEEK 2: 3-7 August: ONLY Grade 12 learners will return for on-site learning.
- WEEK 3: 12-14 August: ONLY Grade 12 learners will receive on-site learning.
- **10 and 11 August: school holidays.**
- WEEK 4: 17-21 August: ONLY Grade 12 learners will receive on-site learning.
- FROM 24 August onwards -ALL Grades will be incorporated back into the on-site system according to the Amended timetabling. The DBE must still provide more clarity on how additional grades will be introduced from 24 August onwards.

To facilitate and to give clarity I will address the practical implementation and implication for this directive.

GRADE 12:

“The National decision requires that ALL Grade 12 learners and teachers are physically at school EVERY DAY from 3 August 2020 until 24 August 2020. They will be expected to attend school every day thereafter (except for formal school holidays), until they start their final National Senior Certificate examinations.” – Letter from the Head of Department, Mr B Schreuder.

The Grade 12 curriculum did not change in terms of the Temporary Revised Educational plans (Grade 8-11). The department does not deem the online platforms as an acceptable replacement for face-to-face teaching and learning. We will get clarity on the implications for the parents who chose to keep your child at home and completed the Annexure B (1) or B (2) and the Annexure C. If you have decided not to send your child to school and did not apply formally, please communicate with me today via email. If you have communicated and we have sent you the necessary documentation, we need to receive it tomorrow morning for us to submit it to the HEAD of EDUCATION.

The Grade 12 teachers teach across the different grades. Should your child not attend school I do not expect them to give private lessons to learners who do not attend on-site schooling. Please read through the terms and conditions of off-site schooling carefully. Some subjects require face-to-face teaching (classroom/tutor teaching) to facilitate the understanding of complex concepts.

Should there be any changes to the school hours we will communicate that to you via SMS. The language departments will communicate the catch-up examinations for paper 3. The learners wrote the examinations at the end of term one. Paper 3 forms part of the formal assessments and all learners must complete the task as part of their School Based Assessment.

MOCK EXAMS:

We are close to six weeks away from writing the MOCK exams (start date: 25 September) and I am concerned about some of our Grade 12 learners who should and do not attend school every day, and their lack of urgency. We will put in a concerted effort to reach every child, those who do not attend school and those on-site. We will ensure that we build enough time into the curriculum delivery to complete and revise the content. Should we offer any EXTRA lessons I urge you to prioritize the time slots. We will communicate any lessons timeously via SMS. I thank the staff in advance for their effort and sacrifice. We are committed to support every matriculant and we will work closely with all our learners at risk.

GRADE 8-11:

The phased –in dates have not been communicated yet. The expectation is that we will ensure that ALL grades will be phased in as from 24 August.

Online teaching will continue on Google Classrooms. The staff will communicate with the family via SMS should your child not do their work or “attend” class. We have developed a structure and we will publish the structure for your attention early next week.

RESOURCE PACKS:

We have issued hard copy work to all our grades. These resource packs were made available the week before school closure. If you have not collected your child’s resource pack, please do so this week. These resource packs are crucial for the learners especially for those learners who do not have data to work on Google classrooms. Please collect your child’s books from the lockers at the same time.

SCHOOL FEES AND MOVEMENT ON THE SCHOOL FEE ACCOUNTS:

I appeal to all our families to put in a concerted effort to pay towards the school fees. Please keep your account up to date or communicate with myself (ljacobsen@muizenberghigh.org.za) or Mrs Lippert (ilippert@muizenberghigh.org.za) if your financial status has changed due to COVID-19. We will gladly assist you. We have experienced a downward spiral in fee income and I am concerned about the perception that off-site learning and teaching is not considered as worthy of paying school fees. Every teacher, and non-teaching staff (front staff and cleaning staff) at Muizenberg High School have continued to show their mettle in this difficult time of uncertainty. Their disappointment in the second school closure and their concern about the learner’s welfare and academic future is commendable. Your commitment to the school fees is an investment to continue providing the quality and value-based education your family and your child deserve.

Thank you to all the families who either paid up their school fees and those who do contribute what they can. I know that we will stand together to overcome this crisis. Many of our families lost their source of income and is battling to make ends meet.

WE REMEMBER:

Many of our families have lost loved ones. You are in our thoughts and prayers every day. Please make use of our school wellness centre and wellness coach, Mrs Liza Bam. Your welfare is of utmost importance to us and our children is vulnerable as they are experiencing so much loss and despair.

Please take care

Mrs L Jacobsen