

REMOTE LEARNING CAMP at MERRIWOOD, Q&A

Q: Why is Merriwood offering this Remote Learning Camp? And what is it?

A: In WSFCS's Plan (for the 9-week remote learning), two limitations to the remote learning were mentioned: First, a lack of ability for some families to adequately support the academic needs of their children, and 2) a lack of community child care centers for before and after school care. MCC seeks to help those in the community with the education plan set forth for the first nine weeks of school - to offer academic support to students, to offer a safe, uplifting, Christian environment for those needing childcare, to offer fun, camp recreation activities, and to promote positive peer social interaction.

Q: What grades is this Remote Learning Camp for?

A: MCC will be offering RLC to 3rd through 8th graders. WSFCS has outlined different plans for K-2nd, 3-5th, 6-8th, and high school. K-2nd grade will have greater coaching needs, which would mean more cost passed on to paying parents. And many 9th-12th graders are better suited to handle the remote learning even if a parent is not 100% present. Merriwood may consider adding grades in future weeks, but at this time, RLC at MCC is being offered to 3rd-8th graders.

Q: What are the dates for Remote Learning Camp?

A: This program is being offered the first nine weeks of WSFCS school, which are Monday, August 17th-Friday, October 16th, 2020.

Q: Is this only for WSFCS students?

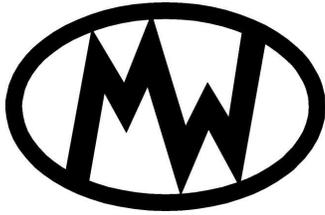
A: MCC's Remote Learning Camp has been designed with the WSFCS schedule and standards in mind, with plans saying that remote learning will happen synchronously with actual video teaching times and asynchronously (students working on their own) between 8:00-2:30 (or 3:00) pm. For this reason, other than snack times, lunch, and brain breaks, the 8:00-2:30 timeframe in the daily schedule will be dedicated to education (with the exception of Flex Fridays possibly having much more recreation time). Since other counties are doing things differently, this program may not work well for those outside WSFCS.

Q: Can my child attend just mornings or just afternoons at MCC or just certain days of the week?

A: To maintain consistency and to have the proper amount of staff in place, MCC will need to know ahead of time how many students will be in the program, full-time. At this time, MCC is not offering any pro-rated options for 1/2 days or offering weekly or daily sign ups or drop-ins.

Q: What will MCC be doing to ensure safety and health in light of COVID-19?

A: First, students and staff will undergo a health screening each morning which includes a series of questions and temperature check at arrival. Second, MCC will be following NC state guidelines for wearing face coverings and social distancing. Students will need to enter the building with a mask and come prepared to use it when not able to social distance. However, students 10 years and under are not required in NC to wear a face covering, but certainly may if parents prefer. MCC staff will wear a mask when not able to socially distance. Third, MCC will have many sanitation stations set up including hand sanitizer and hand washing stations and we will be increasing cleaning of frequently-used spaces. Last, MCC will limit outside visitors in buildings during this program.



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Q: What will the education part of the schedule look like during the day?

A: MCC has studied the tentative plans for WSFCS. This plan has students doing work between the hours of 8:00-2:30 Monday through Thursday with potential Flex Fridays. Those in 3rd-5th will have 25 minute teaching sessions to attend; those in 6th-8th will have 35 minute teaching sessions to attend. This is called “synchronous work” where the teacher is teaching live. While each student’s “check-ins” with teachers may be at different times, MCC will reserve the 8:00-2:30 hours for school work. Students will have brain breaks at differing times. There will be program staff available at set stations at camp where students can get out of the classroom setting for their breaks, and for any PE/music sessions, etc, that need to happen away from the classroom space.

Q: What is a “Learning Coach” and what does WSFCS require their credentials to be?

A: WSFCS requires that each student have a “learning coach” for these nine weeks. A Learning Coach is defined by WSFCS as: ***any adult who the parent or guardian identifies as the individual who will oversee the student's day to day virtual or remote learning school work. This person can be a family member, friend, or community representative.*** MCC staff will be operating as “learning coaches” during the 8:00-2:30 timeframe. However, each parent will be the *official* “learning coach” for their child.

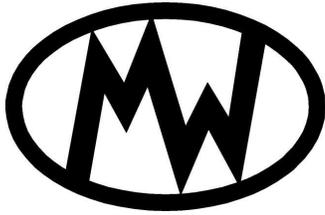
MCC will have an experienced classroom teacher who will act as the **Academic Director** who supervises Learning Coaches (most or all of whom will have 4-year college degree or Master’s Degree.) The role of MCC’s learning coaches is to oversee the remote learning day, make sure the students are logged in when needed, and assist when possible, *but not necessarily to teach or tutor.* (Learning Coaches will help students field any unanswered *education* questions back to the student’s actual teacher.) ** MCC’s Learning Coaches will provide a log of how the student’s time was spent during the 8:00-2:30 pm remote learning timeframe (synchronous, asynchronous, and brain breaks) by Friday of each week. It will be the responsibility of the parent to turn in the weekly attendance log to WSFCS, which is required to be turned in on Monday of each week (for the previous week).

Q: How will MCC’s learning coaches make sure my child is attending the proper synchronous class sessions?

A: We realize that parents will be the ones getting all the communication from teachers concerning synchronous class times, changes in schedule for the day, assignments, etc. MCC will have a communication format for parents to send back and forth with the MCC team to make sure the necessary check-ins are happening. MCC will provide a mobile number a parent can text or call at any time if there is a change in student schedule after the start of the day.

Q: What will happen between 2:30-4:30 pm?

A: Merriwood has so much to offer for students on our 68-acres of property! After class time, MCC will offer active, camp activities like swimming, lake activities, archery, sling-shots, crafts, climbing wall, (and more) where students can interact with one another safely.



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Q: Do you accept students that have an IEP (Individualized Education Plan), are EL (English Learner), or in the EC Program (Exceptional Child)?

A: All students are welcome to apply. MCC will evaluate the needs of each student and make a decision if our staff are able to meet the needs of the applicant, and make it a successful situation.

Q: What meals or snacks will be provided for my child?

A: MCC will provide a morning snack for the students, included in the program cost. (But if you prefer to send your own morning snack, that is fine as well.) We ask parents to send in a lunch box/bag with lunch daily. (As the program gets underway, MCC may offer prepared lunches for an additional fee for those who want it.) There will also be an opportunity for students to purchase a snack/treat in the afternoon after school with cash (or bring their own afternoon snack from home).

Q: How do I enroll in this program?

A: There is an application process online for each, individual student, giving us more information about them so we can provide the best coaching and care possible, along with a non-refundable \$25 processing fee per child. If approved, MCC would send a notice of acceptance and the applicant would be given the go-ahead to register and pay online for the program. Fees will be due by Wed, August 12th.

Q: How and when is payment made?

A: There are two options: 1) Parents may pay for the full 9-week program by Wed, Aug 12th, online by credit card, or 2) Parents may set up a three-time payment plan. Payment for first 3 weeks would be due Wed, Aug. 12th. The second three week' payment would be processed Friday, September 4th. The final three weeks' payment would be processed Friday, Sept. 25th.

Q: Are there minimum/maximum student numbers for this program?

A: MCC is planning to accept 30 students initially, and begin a waiting list from there, to open up more spots depending on staff availability. Our minimum number for the program to be feasible would be 25 students. We encourage those interested to apply ASAP as the approval process may take 2-3 days. (We will be in touch with applicants by Fri., Aug. 7th with an update about how sign-ups are coming in. If we do not have our minimum number by Wed, August 12th, at noon, we would alert those previously signed up and refund application fees.)

Q: What if WSFCS extend the remote learning after October 16, 2020?

A: If remote learning is extended, MCC will consider extending this Remote Learning Camp as well. A decision would be made later concerning the extension of the program.

Q: Who do I contact for more details?

A: Call 336-766-5151 or email registration@campmerriwood.net

We hope to see your child this fall!

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