Dear MCSS Family,

I am writing to update you about our efforts concerning coronavirus (COVID-19). The safety and health of our students, staff, families, and community is our top priority. With that in mind, our team has been working in anticipation of the implementation of measures like those we have seen from other state governments and school systems from around the country.

**Being Prepared**
Although the State of Alabama has not yet declared a state of emergency, in those states where such a declaration has occurred, school has not been canceled statewide. Instead, each district has made their own local decision based on the presence of coronavirus (COVID-19) in their community. We anticipate that a similar approach would be taken in Alabama. Given that we have not had a confirmed case in our community, we are not at this time planning to close schools. Our team has developed contingency plans to serve our students while minimizing the risk of exposure to and spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19), discussed below.

**Instruction During An Extended School Closure**
Given the rapidly changing nature of this serious health concern, we must be prepared for the possibility of a short-notice closure of schools. To do this, our team is working with schools to ensure that students are able to continue their coursework at home in the event of a school closure. Instructional procedures will be sent out in a separate document.

**Domestic School Trips**
Currently, all domestic field trips are still on schedule. However, we are evaluating each trip on a case-by-case basis and are continuing to monitor information shared by the World Health Organization, the National Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the U.S. State Department, the Alabama State Department of Education, and the Alabama State Department of Public Health. We will continue to base our decisions on what we believe to be in the best interest of student safety. Schools will share specific information about field trips with families. This is subject to change with relatively short notice. If this changes, your school will let you know as soon as possible.

**Extracurricular Activities (Sports, Performances, etc.)**
One of the main reasons for the measures in this letter is to limit the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) in order to protect our most vulnerable populations. Once a community has confirmed cases of the coronavirus (COVID-19), it is important to minimize the number of large gatherings. There are many normal spring school activities that lead to large gatherings including sporting events, choral and theater performances, GreenPower events, etc.

If we become aware of a risk of exposure, we will take steps to limit or temporarily cancel extracurricular activities. This may include total cancellation of events. As with other things discussed in this letter, we will let you know as soon as possible of any cancellations.

Regarding the rescheduling of events, the AHSAA just released guidance for districts. That guidance includes the rescheduling of games with playoff implications. Our schools have been informed of this guidance, and our athletic directors for each school will work with the District team to reschedule these games.


**Conclusion**
As always, thank you for your commitment to our schools, and thank you for working with us. We will do our best to update you as quickly as possible if the need arises.

Allen Perkins
Superintendent