



# LYNX NEWS

## March 20, 2020

**REMINDER:** Due to Governor Polis' Executive Order, the MA campus is closed and ALL previously scheduled events are cancelled from March 16<sup>th</sup> - April 17<sup>th</sup>.

School through Distance Learning will resume after Spring Break on March 30<sup>th</sup>.

Please stay safe and healthy during this National Health Crisis.

In accordance with the Executive Order from Governor Polis closing all Colorado public and private schools from March 16<sup>th</sup> through April 17<sup>th</sup>, Monument Academy joins El Paso County and School District 38 in a school campus closure with school resuming on March 30<sup>th</sup> through Distance Learning (please refer to information included below). This campus closure is an effort to keep our Monument Academy and greater community safe and healthy. All extracurricular clubs and sports, field trips, and out-of-school activities have been cancelled during this time.

This means that both teachers and students will remain off campus and out of the building during this March 16<sup>th</sup> – April 17<sup>th</sup> mandatory school campus closure. Everyone is currently scheduled to return to Monument Academy on April 20<sup>th</sup>. Please ensure that you are monitoring your emails from the school and district in order to be up-to-date with the latest information as well as detailed instruction for online learning and communications from the administration and your children's teachers.

Dear Monument Academy Community,

Our priority continues to be the health and safety of our students, families, staff members, and our greater community. With our closure, we are taking proactive steps to prevent the spread of the virus. We will continue to assess with the district the April 17<sup>th</sup> return date, and are deploying a number of instructional continuity protocols for implementation (including device and Internet availability for staff and students, as well as the creation of video lessons and lesson plans for online learning) and we are ready to execute beginning March 30<sup>th</sup>. The team has also compiled pages for educational resources and activities for parents that have been posted on the MA website, please also click on the Facebook link from the MA website for highlighted activities and “family favorites”.

The Administrative Team has been brainstorming ways that we as a school community can facilitate a platform for the communication of needs. We are creating an email sign up for people willing to receive communications and a form for people who wish to communicate a need. The idea is to resemble an old-time town hall forum to take care of our community members without the face-to-face group meetings. So, as an example, my husband and I keep baby items for when the grandbaby visits. If there was a mom out there in short supply of formula, we could drop it on her porch...We have a community with generous hearts who wish to care for one another but the necessary isolation and limiting person-to-person contact make this difficult. It is our hope that this platform will be one venue for helping to facilitate the support of one another. An email communication will be sent at the start of next week with sign up links if you would like to participate. Please note that this is a voluntary participation.

Thank you for your partnership with MA. Thank you to our MA Board of Directors; their first and primary concern is for our families and faculty and ensuring everyone is cared for. Thank you to our MA community for your positivity, encouragement, and humor in the face of this challenge. Parents and care givers, please also take care of yourselves, not just with hand washing, but also by getting rest, taking vitamins, and finding ways not to stress, so that we continue to be best able to care for our loved ones. I greatly value each of you.

*Christianna Herrera*  
Chief Operations Officer

## From the Leadership Team:

The spread of this virus, and the subsequent National Health Crisis that we are currently experiencing, is especially unsettling because this is an invisible threat. Under normal circumstances we are able to plan ways to tangibly defend ourselves and our loved ones against a known adversary. Because the nature of this virus is unseen and one that could unknowingly strike while we go about our day-to-day lives, we must look to an unprecedented social distancing and join in efforts on the home, state, national, and global fronts.

As protectors of our children, families, and community, the best way for each of us to safeguard ourselves is by mitigating the risk of exposure so as not to contract the virus in the first place; to slow the spread of the virus so that medical agencies are not overloaded and have more time to find a vaccine.

We have all been inundated with information, and we continue to encourage the community to seek out credible, reliable sources of information on COVID-19 by utilizing the following websites and phone numbers:

- El Paso County Public Health website: <https://www.elpasocountyhealth.org/>
- CDPHE website: [www.colorado.gov/cdphe](http://www.colorado.gov/cdphe)
- CDC website: <https://www.cdc.gov/>
- State COVID-19 Information Line 1-877-462-2911 or email [COHELP@RMPDC.org](mailto:COHELP@RMPDC.org)
- El Paso County COVID-19 Information Line: 719-575-8888

### **Behavioral Health:**

Crisis Stabilization Unit at AspenPointe: 572-6100

Peak View Behavioral Health: 444-8484

Cedar Springs Hospital: 633-4114

Highlands Behavioral Health: 720-348-2805

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 800-273-TALK (8255)

Text Line: Text "Talk" to 38255

**Local Emergency Room** <https://www.uchealth.org/locations/emergency-room-colorado-springs-north/>

### Tri-Lakes Cares Food Pantry

235 Jefferson St # B, Monument, CO 80132

Phone: [\(719\) 481-4864](tel:(719)481-4864)

<https://tri-lakescares.org/client-services/food-assistance/>

### Care and Share Food Bank

2605 Preamble Point, Colorado Springs, CO 80915

<https://careandshare.org/>

Friday 8AM–5PM

Saturday Closed

Sunday Closed

Monday 8AM–5PM

Tuesday 8AM–5PM

Wednesday 8AM–5PM

Thursday 8AM–5PM

### United Way Information line 2-1-1

referrals for: food, housing, utilities, home repair, emergency shelter, clothing, transportation, military assistance, taxes, mental health, senior issues, substance abuse, medical care and more!

**From the Marketing Director:** Please know the *Monument Academy Facebook* page is also a resource for you to use: [MA Facebook link](#)

**From the Business Manager regarding field trips:** If you have paid for a field trip that cannot be rescheduled, we will send you a refund by May 1st or sooner if we can. Any uncashed checks are locked up at the school and we will shred them when the school reopens.



*MA course selection worksheets, for the 20/21 school year, will be coming out after we return from the break.*

# A Note About Distance Learning

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are pleased to be able to offer e-learning for our students starting March 30th. Our teachers have been working hard to create digital lessons and instructional videos so their students can see their faces and hear their voices, and words of reassurance for when they get to “see” each other again on Monday, March 30th. We know that our families are navigating many challenges right now. With that in mind, it is our desire to streamline and simplify our remote learning process. We will also rely on our families to communicate what is working well and where we can improve.

We are using *Canvas* to organize lessons during this school closure. Middle school students will still see their classes and assignments as they have all year. Their teachers will include video instruction in place of classroom instruction. Elementary students will be able to find their e-learning lessons and assignments on the grade-level web pages listed on the [Monument Academy website](#). In addition to assignments and instructional videos, your teachers will offer additional activity links. All of our teachers, both in elementary and middle school, will post contact information and office hours, as well as class codes and *Calendly* appointment schedulers that you may need. More specific details are forthcoming. Rest assured that we are keeping the challenges of remote learning in mind and are working the details to provide access, support, and ease of use.

Here are some tips to assist you and your student as we embark on this journey together!

- Create a schedule with your student(s) - Having a schedule provides structure for a new situation. Here is a link to a schedule that is editable for your family: [Sample Schedule](#). If you like it, go to file and “make a copy” to edit.
- Flexibility within structure is a positive. These are new experiences, and students may need to change things up based on emotions.
- Create a workspace - Students find it easier to remain focused and get the most out of their lessons without the distraction of toys, television, and cell phones.
- Being your child’s learning guide can bring about its own challenges. Be prepared for frustration, and ready with a kind word and a smile. Take a break. Reach out to your child’s teachers during office hours to discuss questions. Have your child reach out to his/her teacher. We’re also flexible!

Office hours for the tech department - Mrs. Weber and Ms. Ross cannot diagnose Internet connection problems for your home, but they can guide you in clicking what you need to click, finding what you need to find, and logging in with usernames and passwords that may have been forgotten over our long break. They are happy to help with tech issues!

We’re all in this together!

Julie Seymour, Patricia Ross, and Beth Weber



We are awaiting further word on the spring athletic season, but until we hear something different, we will plan on beginning our season sports April 20th. Should our spring season be cancelled, we will refund any payments that were made in the way we received them. Thank you.



MA will **not** be having a Spring Landsharks running program. We would like to have a fall program, but are in need of a head coach and a couple of assistants. Please contact Mrs. Kelly Collier at [kcollier@monumentacademy.net](mailto:kcollier@monumentacademy.net) if you could coach!



Online Shopping Only Apr. 19 – May 2

All orders ship home!

You now have access to shop *The Scholastic Store* and [earn rewards \(links to an external site\)](#) for your school with every purchase when you click 'Shop Now' following the link above! Explore thousands of best-selling books, collections, new releases, educational toys, games, and more. All online items priced as marked.



Download the new-and-improved *Scholastic Book Fairs* app. Get book details, see recommendations, watch videos, and more! [Check It Out](#)

*Also, from the Librarian:*

~ The MA Library will be suspending overdue/fine email notices for the next few weeks. Parents and staff are asked to contact the librarian, Mrs. Kelly Collier, via email during our extended break should questions or needs come up that she can help with. [kcollier@monumentacademy.net](mailto:kcollier@monumentacademy.net)

~ 5th grade Battle of the Books District & Regional Competitions are **cancelled** for 2020.



6th Grade Science launched its unit on Astronomy by eating Astronaut Ice Cream, being greeted by an X-Fighter Astronaut, and watching a short video on space exploration! We are looking forward to exploring galaxies and sharing facts on our "new" planet in a "galaxy far, far away" during our Intergalactic Symposium!



Cabin fever? Check out some helpful resources [here!](#)



## **Spring Assessments Update**

### **CMAS ASSESSMENTS CANCELLED!**

Due to the impacts of the Coronavirus, the state of Colorado has decided not to administer CMAS assessments for the 2019-2020 school year. Monument Academy plans to go forward with NWEA assessments in late April and early May should school resume in a reasonable time frame. We will communicate again should the situation change. Please see the assessment schedule for NWEA below. Thank you!

We encourage you to make every effort to have your students here at school during their assigned NWEA assessment days and instill in them the importance of putting forth their best effort so that we may complete these assessments effectively and gather accurate information regarding our students' abilities. Students that miss the assigned testing days will need to complete the missed assessments during regular instruction time.

### **Monument Academy NWEA Assessment Schedule: (Subject to change due to weather)**

- 4/28 – 3rd and 4th Grade
- 4/29 – 3rd and 4th Grade
- 5/5 – 5th Grade & Middle School
- 5/6 – 5th Grade & Middle School

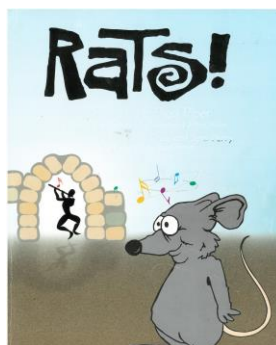
General information about assessments administered at Monument Academy throughout the year can be found at: <https://www.monumentacademy.net/assessments>

Please contact the Assessment Coordinator with any questions – [mventicinque@monumentacademy.net](mailto:mventicinque@monumentacademy.net)  
Thank you!





**Employment Opportunities:** Monument Academy is now hiring for the 2020-21 school year. Please take a look at our [job listings](#).



The 5<sup>TH</sup> grade Prep Choir will be performing the *RATS!* musical

Date: **TBD**

Where: Gym



**Attention:** families with students entering 3rd through 9th grades for the 2020-21 school year - The Monument Academy "Instrument Selection Event" **has been postponed until further notice**. Please stay tuned for future details.

**LANDS' END  
SCHOOL**



Code: MARCH Pin: 2665

Valid 3/18-3/24

## Monument Academy Elementary Yearbook

**You can still get your yearbook! The cost is \$25.**

**Order by April 1<sup>st</sup>.**

To purchase a yearbook: <http://jostensyearbooks.com/?REF=A01064957>

Or scan:





## Camp Invention is returning to Monument Academy!

In partnership with the National Inventors Hall of Fame® (NIHF), **Monument Academy** is pleased to offer the nationally acclaimed *Camp Invention*® program to children entering grades **K** through **6th**. This exciting, weeklong summer adventure provides lessons that explore connections between science, technology, engineering, and innovation. Children rotate through several hands-on activities each day while using teamwork, creative thinking, and problem-solving skills to invent unique solutions to real-world challenges. The week begins on **June 8, 2020**, with **Andrea Dickey** serving as Director of the **all-new 2020 program, Elevate!**

During this program, young innovators will:

- Build a cityscape out of upcycled materials, navigate planes through a storm, and take apart a robot they'll bring home at the end of the program.
- Learn the value of their creativity as they sketch and build prototypes, design logos, market their invention, and protect their intellectual property.
- Collaborate and discover solutions to protect the Earth's ecosystems as they compete in zipline races, explore energy conservation, and help wildlife habitats.
- Discover the great inventors behind their favorite sports, play high-energy games, and design the ultimate sports complex.

Camp Invention's activities give participants the opportunity to explore, create, and build confidence as they bring their biggest ideas to life.

Local educators facilitate the program and enthusiastic high school students serve as Leadership Interns, ensuring that one staff member is in place for every eight children.

**Register using promo code SUM25 to save \$25 (expires 3/31) or SUM15 to save \$15 (expires 5/12) off the \$240 registration fee.** Availability is limited. Visit [invent.org/camp](http://invent.org/camp) or call 800-968-4332 to secure your child's spot today!



Wishing all our MA families good health and strength  
as we figure this out together.



**MA Elementary PTO** is looking for volunteers for next school year.  
If you are interested in any below, please email Kim Stoltenberg at  
[maptopresidentelect@gmail.com](mailto:maptopresidentelect@gmail.com)

**President Elect and Fun Run Chair**

**MA Secondary School** is building a strong PTO for our new campus!!  
We need Officers and Chairs for next year. For more information or to put your name into the  
running for the PTO, please contact us at:

Melody Pautzke@ [melpautzke@gmail.com](mailto:melpautzke@gmail.com)  
Tanja Curtis @ [tanja.curtis@icloud.com](mailto:tanja.curtis@icloud.com)

**Reminder, Meeting for Secondary PTO**  
Friday, April, 10<sup>th</sup> @ 1:30 p.m. at Serranos Coffee

\*\*\* Due to COVID -19 closures, we may be delaying our meeting on April 10<sup>th</sup>.  
More information will come in the next weeks.\*\*\*