

LMACS Community and Parents:

FALL 2020

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic there has been an interruption of your child's in-school academic and/or mental health support services. As LMACS transitions temporarily to the fully remote learning model, the staff are committed to making reasonable efforts to ensure continuity of all supports through time periods of disruption.

We are writing today to let you know that we will be offering continued services using a virtual telehealth model for counseling and academic services

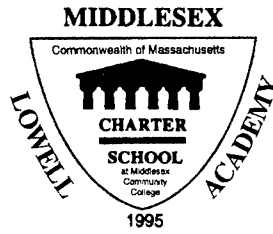
WHAT ARE VIRTUAL OR REMOTE SERVICES?

Virtual academic support, social-emotional/mental health counseling, and check ins with Advisors are offered through the use of electronic communication rather than face-to-face. It allows services between staff and students in different locations via email and live two-way audio and/or video communication. Some sessions may be in small groups, while others may be individual. All appointments will be made directly with the teacher, Advisor, tutor or school Social Worker directly.

All school rules and ethical standards apply to remote sessions

CONFIDENTIALITY:

Reasonable and appropriate efforts have been made to adhere to Federal and State Regulations. When using electronic communication, proper safeguards will be in place including encryption, firewalls, and passwords. Recording of the sessions will not be allowed unless otherwise discussed and agreed in advance for therapeutic or educational purposes.



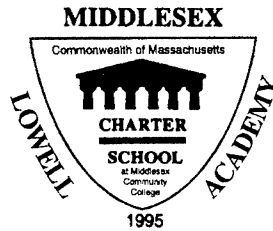
Confidentiality is designed to protect personal information, prevent improper distribution of information, protect personal and family security, avoid prejudice or differential treatment, and encourage individuals to access services designed to help them. LMACS faculty will take steps to maintain confidentiality in the same manner that they would in the in-person school setting.

As with face-to-face services, there are particular times and circumstances that require confidentiality to be broken. In the case of a student reporting thoughts and/or actions that are harmful or dangerous to him or herself or others, it is a professional's duty to notify appropriate parties (e.g. family, others the individual may cause harm towards, and appropriate authorities and emergency responders). In addition, all staff members of LMACS are mandated reporters and required to report to state authorities whenever there is actual or suspected abuse (e.g. physical, emotional, sexual) or neglect (e.g. failure to provide adequate food, shelter, clothing, supervision). Parents/guardians will be notified by phone if any safety concerns are raised or suspected during remote/virtual sessions.

RISKS & BENEFITS:

There are limitations to a virtual setting compared to face-to-face settings. One of the greatest risks may include unintended viewers in one's home. Students/parents/guardians are asked to find a place in your home that will have minimal interruptions and distractions during sessions. The utilization of headphones can also be helpful in protecting confidentiality.

The benefit of providing virtual services is to support students by providing access to school mental health/social-emotional and academic services during the remote learning model when they may need it more than usual.



RIGHTS:

All services offered remotely via telehealth model are optional. You may withhold or withdraw consent for virtual services for your child at any time by emailing their guidance counselor.

QUESTIONS:

If you have any questions about virtual services generally or the services to be provided to your child please contact their Advisor.

CONSENT:

If you **DO NOT** want your child to participate in the following virtual/telehealth services, an email specifying which services you are **NOT** consenting to must be sent to your child's Advisor

- Telehealth social-emotional/mental health counseling with school psychologist, or school social worker
- One-to-one academic support.

Support Services Contacts:

Social Worker, Tracy David davidt@middlesex.mass.edu

Special Ed Director, Patricia Harding, hardingp@middlesex.mass.edu

Special Education Teacher, Lilya Perliger, perligerl@middlesex.mas.edu

Assistant Director, Anne Monoxelos, monoxelos@middlesex.mass.edu