Mobile County
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

1 Magnum Pass | Mobile, Alabama 36618 | 251-221-4000 | www.mcpss.com

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SUPERINTENDENT Chresal D. Threadgill

Message from the Office of Chresal D. Threadgill, MCPSS Superintendent

Dear MCPSS Parents and Guardians,

Only a few days remain before Tuesday, September 1, our first day of "remote" school. Our teachers and other MCPSS employees have worked tirelessly to prepare for a very different kind of learning experience. Many efforts have been put into place to ensure our students receive a quality education "remotely." Some of these efforts include the following: Our teachers have been trained to utilize our online learning platform, Schoology; our schools are in the process of distributing devices to all students in need of a device; our principals have organized orientations and "Meet the Teacher" events, either virtually or in small numbers to maintain social distancing; and finally, our students are excited to get to see their classmates, even if it will be over a computer. Additionally, we know that you as parents are ready to get back into a routine, but we also understand there may be some apprehension concerning the first quarter of the 2020 - 2021 school year.

As Superintendent, I am asking my staff, parents, and the entire #TeamMCPSS to practice two things as we kick off this school year: ***PATIENCE and FLEXIBILTY.***

Please be PATIENT. While we have done our best to prepare, understand that there will be bumps in the road. There will be possible internet issues, login troubles, and other obstacles as we work into our new routine. Your child's teacher will be there to help. Other staff at your school will be there to help, and our Technical Support Hotline is available at 221-7777. We have been proactive in troubleshooting before our first day in attempt to alleviate as many issues as possible before school begins.

Please be ***PATIENT*** with your teachers as they get to know their new students, and with your children as they get to know their new teachers. We will have icebreaker activities during the first week and your teachers will be available via email and chat sessions to assist your children in becoming acclimated to remote learning.

Please be FLEXIBLE. We have completed the first round of device distribution, which included giving out Chromebooks, iPads and other devices first to the families who indicated in our survey that they needed one. We will have additional rounds of distribution for families who are still in need of devices. We are also distributing hotspots to provide internet connectivity. I strongly encourage families who do not have adequate internet capability to take advantage of the Alabama Broadband Connectivity program, which is distributing free internet vouchers. Also, we are deploying 20 buses throughout the county to assist with connectivity issues in certain areas. A list of these locations is included in this packet.

Please be ***FLEXIBLE*** as your children navigate Schoology. This is one of the highest-rated and most user-friendly learning platforms available. MCPSS has purchased extra customer support services to avoid as

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many technical issues as possible, but we are prepared to still deal with unexpected kinks. Please have your child log on to Schoology before Tuesday to get familiar with the program. Both student and parent tutorials are available at www.acp.mcpss.com. This site also provides a wealth of information for parents to assist with successful navigation of remote learning. Updates and back-to-school tips will also be provided via the Mobile County Public Schools' Facebook page.

Our first week of school will be a week of transition and a week of trial and error. We will review material from last year and spend most of the time getting used to Schoology, our new devices, our new teachers, and this new way of learning. But I know without a shadow of doubt that ***"WE'VE GOT THIS."***

COVID-19 has required educators to reinvent their entire profession, and it has taught all of us about ***PATIENCE and FLEXIBILITY.*** Please keep these two words in mind, and I know we will have a successful first week and first quarter as #TeamMCPSS.

Respectfully,

Chresal D. Threadgill
Superintendent

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School Starts Tuesday, and MCPSS is READY!

Student and parents, here's how to get started:

- ***BEFORE TUESDAY***
  - Practice logging into Schoology using your child's district username and password, and click the icons to see their courses.
    - To log into Schoology, visit mcpss.schoology.com. Or, go to mcpss.com, click Our Students, and then sign into Clever.
    - Username: Your child's first, middle and last initials, followed by the last 6 numbers in their student ID (abc123456@stu.mcpss.com)
    - Password: Your child's first initial capitalized, last initial lowercase, and their birthdate (Ac11042008)
  - Join the Parent/Student Orientation Group in Schoology (Click Groups, My Groups, and enter code 33BB 5VB5 GVZF3) and get to know this amazing learning platform.

- ***MONDAY***
  - Pick up a week's worth of breakfast and lunch from 9am - 1pm at your child's school.
  - Enjoy your last day of summer break, read a bedtime story, and go to bed early.

- ***TUESDAY***
  - Eat a good breakfast and take 5 minutes to do something that helps you feel positive.
  - Use the schedule provided by your child's teacher/school and log into Schoology. Elementary school students will start in homeroom and navigate through all their courses. Middle and high school students will follow their course schedule. Contact your child's teacher or school if you do not have a schedule.
  - If you have any trouble, contact your child's teacher or school. They will be glad to assist you!

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Virtual Code of Conduct

Attention MCPSS Parents, Guardians and Students,

As the Mobile County Public School System (MCPSS) educates students in a virtual setting, please be reminded that the systems' Student Code of Conduct applies to students in the virtual educational environment.

Creating a school environment that allows for meaningful and effective learning experiences requires efforts by parents/guardians, students, and school personnel. It is the responsibility of school administrators and teachers to ensure that the rules and regulations of the school are carried out in a consistent manner that promotes fairness, honesty, and genuine concern for the entire school community.

Parents/guardians have the responsibility to:

- Help create a virtual learning environment that nurtures quality in education
  (ex. No music playing or distracting noises and images that are obscene or derogatory should be heard or displayed in the background).
- Provide the students with the resources needed to complete class work
- Encourage students to respect the rights and individuality of others
- Ensure that students sign-in promptly and regularly in compliance with attendance rules and other procedures necessary for the best possible education

Students have the responsibility to:

- Respect teachers and those in authority
- Respect the rights of others
- Obey laws and local school/system rules and policies
- Exhibit a sense of fairness, honesty, loyalty, obedience, courtesy, price, and trustworthiness
- Strive for academic excellence
- Be appropriately dressed for class daily
  (ex. Hair combed/neatly groomed, no revealing attire, no pajamas)
- Be prepared for school daily by having all the necessary materials and completing all assignments

As communications on the network and Internet are often public in nature, general school/system rules for behavior and communications apply (see *Student Code of Conduct*).

Parents/guardians are responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their children should follow when using digital resources for virtual learning.

The Mobile County Public School System will not be liable for the actions of any person, student or staff, connected to the Internet through Mobile County Public Schools. All users assume full liability – legal, financial, or otherwise – for their actions.

The use of Internet resources accessed from any computer that is the property of the school system or any computer connected to a local area network within any school system facility is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use will result in the cancellation of those privileges and/or punishment for such violations as prescribed in the Student Code of Conduct. The Mobile County Public School System will utilize filtering software or other technologies to prevent students from accessing materials and communications that are (1) obscene, (2) pornographic, or (3) harmful to others. MCPSS will also monitor the online activities of students through varied technological means.

Violations and acts of misconduct are unacceptable and will be addressed through the policies outlined in the MCPSS Student Code of Conduct. ***The discipline consequences will include supportive interventions and may lead to suspension or expulsion depending on the severity of the behavior. Additionally, possible criminal charges may be filed with local law enforcement agencies.***

We look forward to a wonderful virtual learning experience and great school year! Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

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Remote Learning Q&A

We are looking forward to starting school remotely on September 1. Mobile County Public Schools has compiled this list of Frequently Asked Questions so everyone can be prepared to log on and start learning.

What is Schoology?

All of our classes will be offered on a learning platform called Schoology (pronounced: Skoo'-luh-jee). Students will be able to access their courses, assignments and live lessons taught by their teachers all in the same place.

How do we access Schoology?

There are two ways:

- Go to: mcpss.schoology.com. (**Note: do not put www in front of the web address**).
- Or, you can go to mcpss.com. Click on the "Our Students" icon at the top of the page. This will direct you to the Clever page, where you can click "Log In With Active Directory" to access Schoology.

How do we log on to Schoology?

Students log on to Schoology with their school-issued email address and password as follows:

- Username: Your child's first, middle and last initial, followed by the last 6 digits of his or her ID#, and @stu.mcpss.com
    - Example: STM123456@stu.mcpss.com
    - NOTE: If you are using an MCPSS-issued computer, you may not need to include the @stu.mcpss.com to log on.
- Password: Capitalize the first letter of the first name, lowercase the first letter of the last name, and add the 8-digit birthdate.
    - Example: Sm01012010

Can I access Schoology from a tablet or phone?

Yes. You will not have access to as many features as you would if you were using a laptop. But students, particularly those in early elementary grades, may prefer using a tablet.

How will my child access his/her classes on Schoology?

Once a student is logged on to Schoology, he or she will see a dashboard with icons representing each of the courses he or she is taking this quarter. Click on each icon to gain access to the live lessons as well as content and assignment your teacher has posted for that class. Note that most teachers are waiting until September 1 to start posting content.

Are there any tutorials available on how to use Schoology?

Yes. Visit acp.mcpss.com for information about our remote learning program and video tutorials on Schoology. You can also join our Student/Parent Orientation group on Schoology for instructions and updates. To do that, first make sure your child is logged on to Schoology. Click "Groups," "Join a Group," and then enter code: 33BB-5VB5-GVZF3

When should my child log on?

Your school will provide your child's schedule. Elementary students will start their days in homeroom. Middle and high school students will move through their courses on their school's bell schedule. We recommend that students log on daily for the live lessons. But if your family's schedule will not allow that, your child can log on later in the day.

Will daily attendance be counted?

Yes. Mobile County Public Schools' attendance policy is in effect. To be counted present, your child must log on to Schoology by 11:59 p.m. on each school day.

How can I keep up with my child's progress?

Schoology will send out a weekly email to parents letting them know how their children are doing. Parent accounts are created that will allow them to look at the work their child has submitted, check grades and attendance, and contact the teacher. Directions provided.

Where can I go for technical help?

If you need help, please check with your teacher or your school first. If you have done that and still need technical assistance, call our hotline at: 221-7777 Monday-Friday from 3PM-8 PM.

Where can I go for academic help?

If your child is struggling, please let your teacher know so he or she can provide extra assistance. Teachers will lead small group and intervention lessons to help prevent students from falling behind. You can also speak to tutors live at homeworkalabama.org.

What other support is MCPSS providing?

We have counselors available to talk to students who are struggling. Our Special Education resource teachers are available to provide a second delivery of content and intervention. Our English as a Second-Language staff can provide translations. All of our school cafeterias are providing meals for our students free-of-charge each Monday for the whole week. Starting on September 7, you will have to have your child's ID# or barcode to pick up the meals. Check your school's Facebook page or website for pick-up instructions. We are also providing laptops and devices to students who need them.

I need a device, but my school did not have one for me. Where can I get one?

Please let your child's teacher know that you did not receive a device and need one. The teacher will work with the principal to help you obtain a device.

I do not have internet access at home. What should I do?

Please let your child's teacher know that you are in need of an internet hotspot. If a hotspot is not immediately available, you may access the internet on one of our many Wifi Buses located across Mobile County. Additionally, the State of Alabama is also providing free internet service through the Alabama Broadband Connectivity for Students Program. Because all MCPSS students receive breakfast and lunch at no cost, you are already enrolled in the Alabama Broadband Connectivity for Students program. You will receive a prepaid voucher letter by U.S. mail in the coming weeks. Then all you'll have to do is call the internet service provider of your choice, give them your voucher number, and sign up for service.

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WIFI BY FEEDER PATTERN

MCPSS students may connect to the internet at the following locations, where buses equipped with WiFi will be parked Monday-Friday, 7 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. If you need WiFi access, visit a site in your feeder pattern.

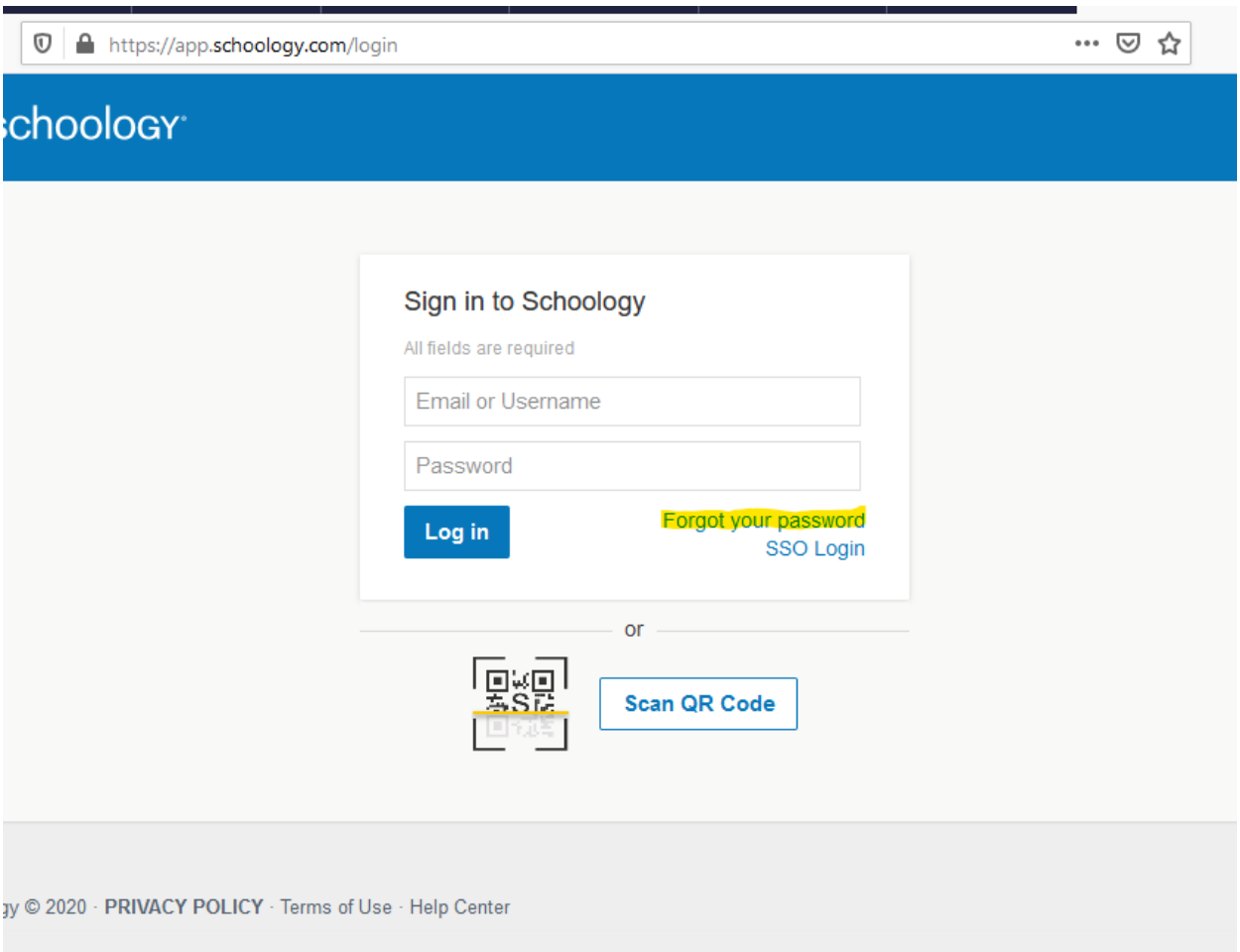
NO	LOCATION	ADDRESS	FEEDER PATTERN
1	McCant/Chavers Park	7215 13th Street	*Baker
2	Trinity Gardens Community Center	2668 Berkley Avenue	*Blount
3	Service Road on Zeigler Boulevard between Athey and Middle Ring Roads		*Blount
4	Alabama Port Fire Department	3290 Hwy 188	*Bryant
5	Vacant lot across from Greers	10835 Dauphin Island Parkway	*Bryant
6	Bethel Baptist Church	16641 Prine Road	*Citronelle
7	Mount Vernon Library	19180 Shepard Lake Road East	*Citronelle
8	DMV Parking Lot	3925 Michael Boulevard	*Davidson
9	Holy Cross Church	3900 Airport Boulevard	*Davidson
10	Figures Park	658 Donald Street	*Leflore
11	Havenwood Church	7050 Lott Road	*MGM
12	Glenwood Rd	Glenwood Farms area	*MGM
13	Tanner WIliams	Tanner Williams Assembly of God	*MGM
14	Ladd Stadium	1621 Virginia Street	*Murphy
15	Trimmer Park	3600 Alba Club Road	*Rain
16	Navco Park	2459 Dog River Drive North	*Rain
17	Dreamland Skate Center	5672 Three Notch Road	*Theodore
18	Sperry Landing	6128 Sperry Road	*Theodore
19	Prichard Library	300 Love Joy Loop	* Vigor
20	Taylor Park	1050 Baltimore Street	*Williamson

MCPSS
WIFI Connection

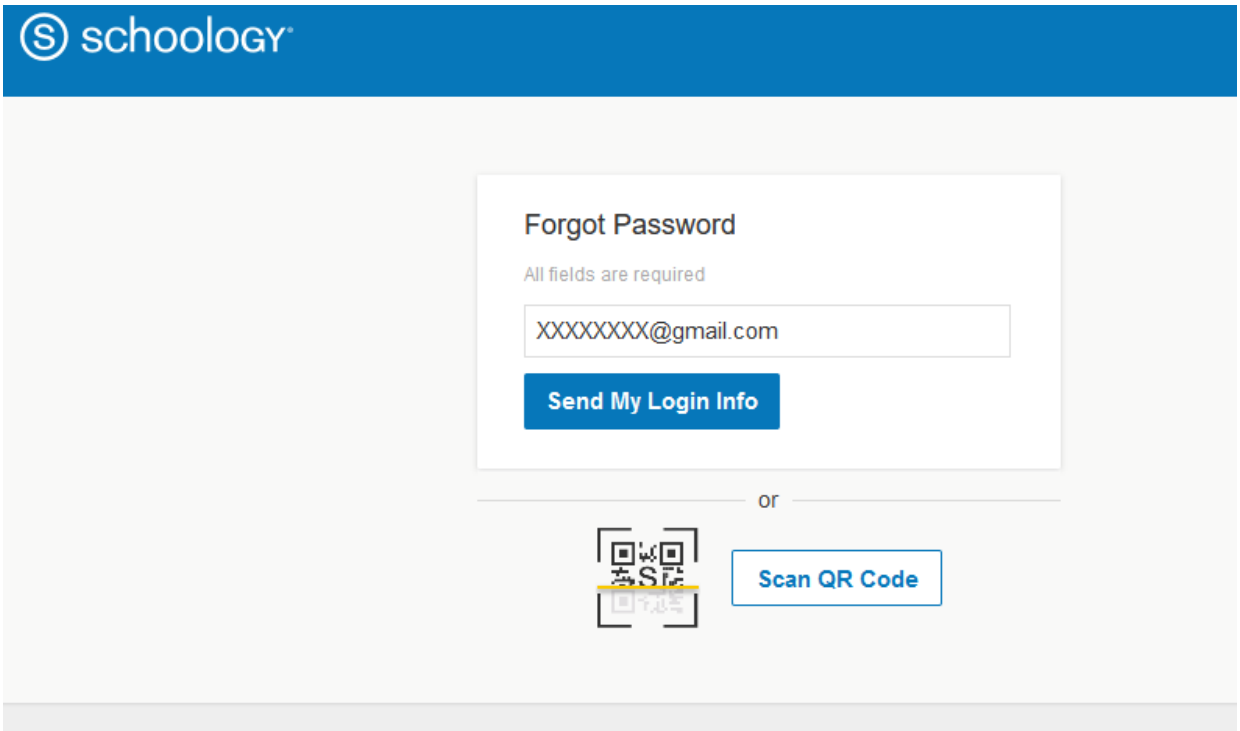
Connect to the WIFI named **MCPSS BUS Network (5g)** and enter password **MCPSSbusNETWORK20**.

Your Parent Account in Schoology

http://app.schoology.com - Click the “Forgot your password” link



Enter your email address used at registration and click “Send My Login Info”



Check your email for a reset link. It may be in your spam folder!

How to Change Your Schoology Password Inbox ×

Schoology <no-reply@schoology.com> 8:10 AM (8 minutes ago)
to me

Hi [redacted],

To reset your Schoology password, please click on the link below or copy and paste the address onto your web browser's address window. Once you're on the web page, you will be asked to enter and confirm your new password.

https://app.schoology.com/user/reset/9997517[redacted]
072c27f906f04ea44b8c532b7ac3ceb3

Please note that this link will expire 24 hours from the time it was sent.

To request a new link please visit https://app.schoology.com/login/forgot

Thanks,
Schoology

Schoology © 2020.
This message was sent t[redacted]@gmail.com. To control the emails you receive from Schoology go to: Account Settings. To view our privacy policy go to: Privacy Policy

Reply Forward

Click the link in the email to reset your password

schoology Log In Sign Up

Reset password

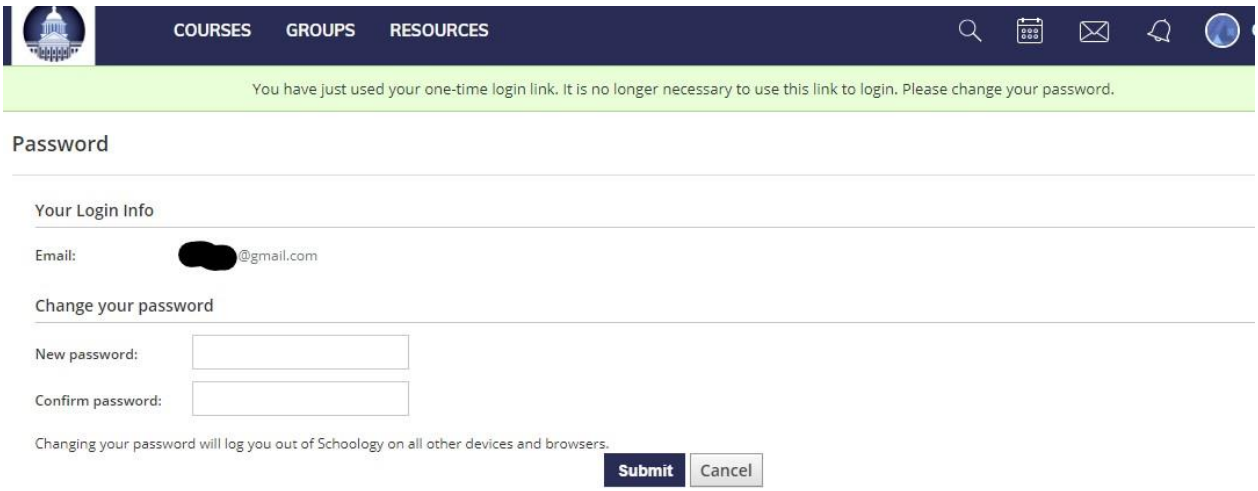
This is a one-time login for [redacted] and will expire on Saturday, August 29, 2020 at 9:21 am.

Click on this button to login to the site and change your password.

This login can be used only once.

Log in

Specify a new password and Submit, and you are in!



If you do not receive an email, check your SPAM folders. If not in SPAM, contact your child's school to update your email address in INOW.

You may want to download the app on your phone for easy access to view Schooology as a parent once you have completed your account reset.