

August 4, 2021

Independent Study Program, 2021-2022 School Year

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

We are ready to welcome back all Meadows Knights for full, in-person instruction for all grades on Thursday, August 19th. MUSD will continue to follow safety guidelines established by the Imperial County Public Health Department to ensure we maintain a safe learning environment for students and staff.

We will also be providing an independent study option for those students whose health would be put at risk by in-person instruction, as determined by the parent or guardian. The State of California has recently announced specific guidance for independent study in the 2021-2022 school year. This letter will provide you with the information needed to request a conference/orientation and should you wish to do so, enroll in independent study.

- The Independent Study Program is **NOT** the same as distance learning as we've known during the pandemic.
- A student who participates in MUSD Independent Study Program will primarily receive instruction from the parent/guardian and work independently through assignments, following the learning and utilizing materials assigned weekly by an Independent Study teacher.
- Students in Independent Study will be required to follow the same curriculum standards, as well as expectations for work completion and expected academic progress, as our in-person instructional program.
- The Independent Study teacher will develop and supervise the student's learning plan, evaluate the student's work and learning progress, provide the opportunity to engage in a daily synchronous instructional session, and monitor engagement and participation in the program.
- Parent/Guardian will be required to provide the daily instruction in English, following the weekly learning plan, feedback through informal assessment, and support their student in attending at least one synchronous learning session each week and submitting all completed assignments by the expected deadlines.
- Students will be required to submit the assigned work at least weekly via the online platform and participate in at least one synchronous instructional session each week for evaluation and feedback.
- Parent/Guardian will be required to meet weekly with the teacher to review the week's learning plan, unless otherwise indicated by the teacher.
- Additional synchronous instructional sessions or parent meetings may be required based on the student's learning needs and progress on academic goals.
- Instructional sessions may be organized in a multi-grade format.
- Instructional material and assignments will be conducted and submitted through online platforms. Textbooks, instructional materials, and an MUSD technology device will be issued.
- The parent/guardian will be held responsible for all district issued materials.
- Students will receive a report card and learning credit equivalent to our in-person instruction program.
- A written learning agreement will be completed and signed prior to beginning the program each semester.
- Continued participation in the Independent Study program is dependent on maintaining adequate participation and learning progress.

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- In accordance with AB130, students who fail to maintain either adequate participation or learning progress will be disenrolled from the Independent Study Program.
- For students with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP), parents should contact Pupil Services to set up an IEP meeting to review whether an Independent Study Program request is appropriate.

Instructional Modes for Different Grades

- **"Synchronous instruction"** means classroom-style instruction or designated small group or one-on-one instruction delivered in person, or in the form of internet (Zoom) or telephonic communications and involving live, two-way communication between the teacher and student. Synchronous instruction will be provided by the teacher of record for that student.
- **"Live interaction"** means interaction between the student and school staff, and may include peers. It is provided for the purpose of maintaining school connectedness, including but not limited to: wellness checks, progress monitoring, provision of services and instruction. This interaction may take place in person or in the form of internet (Zoom) or telephonic communication.
- **"Asynchronous instruction"** means work that the student does on their own, either on paper, or using other physical items, or on electronic devices.

Your Right to Request a Parent-Teacher Conference/Orientation Prior to Enrollment in Independent Study

- It is the right of the parent/guardian to request a parent-educator conference prior to enrolling your student in Independent Study to further inform your decision and ensure that it is an appropriate program for you and your child. Requests for a conference may be made to Instructional Services by emailing Leslie Villanueva at lvillanueva@musdk8.net or by calling at (760) 352-7512 X1053.
- Students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) interested in the Independent Study Program should contact Veronica Hernandez at vhernandez@musdk8.net or call (760) 352-7512 X1053 to request an IEP meeting to further discuss the participation in the Independent Study Program for their child.

Learning More About Independent Study in MUSD for 2021-2022

Interested parents/guardians are invited to attend a general information webinar via Zoom to learn about the MUSD Independent Study Program for the 2021-2022 school year on:

Monday, August 9th @ 5:30pm. LINK: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89829699841>
Spanish translation will be provided.

We hope you enjoy the rest of your summer and look forward to seeing everyone on **Thursday, August 19, 2021.**

Sincerely,



Keila Rodriguez, Superintendent

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