

ALABAMA

Local School District Now Providing K-12 Student Lessons Via Blended Learning Platform

“Innovative School District Impacts Student Engagement Utilizing Broadcast Television, Social Media and Distance Learning”

Submitted by Alabama State Department of Education

The traditional school year in most states is now ending as our nation continues to adjust to COVID-19.

Online resources and technology-based learning opportunities are providing American families new options to expand their children’s educational experience.

Alabama’s Mobile County Public Schools System (MCPSS) has created a cutting-edge resource, which is enabling its community to stay engaged with K-12 learning.

MCPSS is now utilizing local television, along with its social media resources, to provide full classroom instruction and daily information to students and parents.

This school district enlisted about 80 master teachers to provide this quality instruction. These top educators go into a television studio the district created at a local school, and teach exciting and interactive classroom lessons “live on air” weekly.

“I am very proud of what Team MCPSS has been able to accomplish to make sure our students have every possible opportunity to keep learning during this pandemic,” said Mobile County Public Schools Superintendent Chresal D. Threadgill. “Our teachers and staff have been truly innovative in providing our blended learning model, including our online and televised instruction. We stressed from the beginning that our goal was to continue reaching all children, regardless of their access to computers and the internet, and regardless of their abilities and home situation. I believe we have done that.”

The school district now broadcasts more than 33 hours of LIVE instruction for Grades Pre-K through high school (11th Grade) on MCPSS-TV and Facebook.

Students receive instruction in reading, mathematics, social studies, music, art, and science!

Before starting this program, MCPSS conducted a survey to determine how their students and parents best like to receive and access distance learning information – via the internet, cable television programming, traditional forms, etc.

The lessons are also shared on television stations throughout the district and accessible on YouTube. One of the true benefits of this initiative is students can now access classroom information anytime. Students have been afforded a great opportunity to watch these classroom segments as often as they like – to reinforce information and concepts.

To accommodate families that may not have direct access to computers or the internet, MCPSS also provides paper copies of the lessons and information.

Local television affiliate FOX-10 created a special digital sub-channel, 10.6, to assist with this wonderful education effort. UTV-44 also broadcasts about 12 to 14 hours of classroom programming daily for students. Several hours of video content has now been created and delivered utilizing this best practice distance learning effort.

See the MCPSS Live Classroom broadcast schedule at:

https://www.fox10tv.com/news/mobile_county/how-to-catch-mcpss-live-lessons-on-fox10-sub-channel-10-6/article_fe02a820-7b79-11ea-99d5-075a4f520c47.html

This has truly been a great resource for students and parents during COVID-19. Families in neighboring communities and states are also watching the broadcast too!

The team of broadcast professionals who manages programming for this effort are Quintin Howard, Francis Conaway, Eric Lowe, Wade Ford, and Rena Philips.

Visit the official MCPSS website to learn more about this dynamic broadcast television and distance learning partnership - <https://www.mcpss.com/>