

BASIC EDUCATION DIVISION
Michaelean Distance Learning System (MDLS)
Frequently Asked Questions

Is SMCL open for enrollment?

Yes.

Will there be face-to-face classes?

It depends. Parents have two options: blended learning and distance/online learning.

What is the difference between blended and distance/online learning?

Blended learning is a combination of online classes and face-to-face classes; distance learning is full online for the entire year.

Will there be face-to-face classes in blended program starting August?

To protect everyone from the dangers of coronavirus infection, SMCL will not hold face-to-face classes until the Department of Health (DOH) or the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) announces that it is safe for students to go to school.

If so, why offer the blended learning program?

SMCL offers the blended learning program as an option for parents who wish to send their children to school when the government decides to ease restrictions.

Can a learner choose distance learning and then switch to blended learning when the government allows face-to-face classes?

Yes. Just pay the additional fee for blended learning.

Can a learner stay in the distance program even when the pandemic is over?

Yes, at least for this school year. When the new normal has settled, SMCL will follow DepEd regulations hopefully by next school year.

Once the pandemic is over, will SMCL return to a normal daily schedule in the blended program?

Not yet. SMCL prepared class programs that will ensure social distancing as a measure to minimize close contact. For example, a class of 40 will be divided into two groups. Each group of 20 students will only go to school thrice a week, while the rest of the class requirements will be done at home or online.

What is MDLS?

MDLS stands for Michaelean Distance Learning System. MDLS is launched to allow learners to continue their studies through classes that they can access remotely/online.

What is the learning management system (LMS) that SMCL will use?

SMCL subscribed to Microsoft 365. Teachers and learners have access to Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Sway, Teams, Outlook, OneDrive, Forms, Stream, and others. This means the learner can do all his or her tasks (chat, video calls, video streaming, word processing, report writing, test-taking, file sharing, collaborating, and the like) without leaving the Microsoft 365 environment. Each learner may install these apps on up to 15 devices (5 smartphones, 5 tablets, 5 desktops/laptops).

Will there be a channel for parents?

Yes. Parents will be invited to join the official Viber Community for SMCL where they can get announcements and communicate with teachers and principals.

What are the requirements for MDLS?

Because synchronous sessions are online, students need a stable Internet connection at home (wired, Wi-Fi, or mobile data). Each learner also needs one device (a smartphone, a laptop/desktop, or a tablet). Microsoft 365 apps may be accessed through an Internet browser or by installing it through www.office.com for PC and Mac devices, or Play Store and App Store for mobile devices. Learners may opt to use an earphone with a built-in microphone while attending online classes.

What if learners do not have Internet access at home?

Parents have the option to include a Pocket Wi-Fi device (PLDT) upon enrollment. The device has free load for the first three months. The free plan for August to October is Bizload 300 which gives the user 1 GB every day for Microsoft 365 and YouTube plus additional 4 GB for browsing and downloads each month. After three months, parents may choose the same plan or any of the following top-ups:

Bizload Learn 500: 2 GB per day for Microsoft 365 and YouTube plus 8 GB open access data
 Bizload Learn 800: 3 GB per day for Microsoft 365 and YouTube plus 10 GB open access data
 Bizload Learn 1000: 2 GB per day for Microsoft 365 and YouTube plus 16 GB open access data

All plans are valid for 31 days.

What adjustments were done in MDLS?

Learners will be given fewer subjects per day. In Grade School, for example, instead of having nine subjects per day, there will only be 4 subjects for Monday and Tuesday and 5 for Wednesday and Thursday for Middle School and 4 and 3 for the Primary School. Friday will be used for assessment, remediation, and enhancement if there are lessons needing them.

Sample Schedule for Grade School*

Time	Monday & Tuesday	Wednesday & Thursday	Friday
9:00-10:00	English	Mathematics	To be used for assessment, remediation and enhancement
10:30-11:30	Araling Panlipunan	Filipino	
11:30-12:00	-	EsP	
1:00-2:00	Science	EPP	
2:00-3:00	MAPEH	Computer	

On the other hand, in Junior High School, there will be 3 subjects for the synchronous sessions per day for three days in a week, and 1-2 subjects every day for asynchronous/flexible time, as shown in the sample below:

Sample Schedule for Junior High School*

Synchronous					
Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:00-9:40	English	-	Math	-	EsP

10:00-10:40	Computer	-	AP	-	TLE
2:00-2:40	Science	-	Filipino	-	MAPEH
Asynchronous					
Flexible Time	Filipino	Science	Math	English	EsP
	MAPEH	TLE	AP	Computer	

For Senior High School, 3 subjects will be finished by 23-25 days per semester, so learners can focus on fewer tasks at a given time. See sample below.

Sample Schedule for Senior High School*

First Semester (STEM Strand)		
August 17-September 24	September 28-November 5	November 9-December 17
CPAR	General Mathematics	Language 2
Physical Education 1	Language 1	General Biology 1
Understanding Culture, Society, and Politics	Filipino sa Piling Larangan	Earth Science

*All class programs are samples only. Actual class schedule is subject to change.

How about for pre-school?

Majority of the sessions of the preschool will be synchronous but with limited screen time. Activities will be supplemented with learning packets. Guidance of the parents will be needed in the learning tasks. Parents' sessions will be conducted to guide the parents on how they can assist their child/children.

How can we make sure that skills will be learned through MDLS?

SMCL will follow DepEd's Most Essential Learning Competencies (MELCs, see <https://commons.deped.gov.ph/MELCS-Guidelines.pdf>) to ensure that students are given time to learn the most important skills.

How will classes be conducted?

There will be two parts: Synchronous and Asynchronous. Synchronous classes will be conducted as scheduled using Microsoft Teams whether by chat or video call. Each class will have a channel where they can find learning materials and assignments.

For the asynchronous part, learners will receive instructions to answer assignments or create simple projects that will be submitted within seven days.

Will learners be given enough time to finish projects?

Yes. Assignments and simple projects are given a time frame of up to seven days. Deadlines are different for every subject so learners can manage their schedule and focus on a small number of tasks at a time.

What if Internet is "slow"?

Classes are scheduled but flexible. As long as students can access their channels within the time frame, they will be accepted to the video conference. In case learners are not able to go online during a live class, teachers will provide the learning packet for the lesson in PDF format which can be downloaded through Microsoft Teams. Video lessons will also be available in Microsoft Stream. Quizzes and exercises will also be made available at a later time.

What can learners do if Microsoft 365 is not accessible?

In the event that there are technical difficulties, send SMCL a message via the official Viber community for Michaelean parents.

Will there be a separate payment for the learning packets?

None. All learning materials are covered by the tuition fee. The online delivery of the materials (using Microsoft 365 subscription) is also paid for by the miscellaneous fees.

Are the learning packets available in other sites like DepEd or PEAC?

No. While we follow competencies required by DepEd, all learning materials/modules are designed specifically by Michaelean teachers following SMCL's philosophy and core values.

How about tests?

Tests will also be given online. To ensure that what we are assessing is authentic, SMCL will give non-traditional and situational exams that will require learners to use their own knowledge and experiences. Rubrics will be provided so learners and parents will be guided accordingly.

Will there be additional payment for books or learning materials?

There will be no books this year. Teachers will prepare the learning materials. The Learning Resource Center also subscribed to an online repository of books and journals which students can access at <https://infotrac.galegroup.com/itweb/phsmcl>. Online resources are paid through miscellaneous fees.

Will there be discounts or grants?

All fees are discounted this year. SMCL will continue to accept government-issued vouchers such as the ESC grant. To know more about available grants for junior high school and senior high school, go to <https://peac.org.ph/educational-service-contracting-esc/> and <https://peac.org.ph/senior-high-school-voucher-program/>.

Will the discounted fees be offered next school year?

Fees are subject to change next school year.

Should learners be in uniform while attending online classes/video conferences?

There is no need for Type A uniform, but learners are required to wear PE T-shirt during online classes.

Will there be an Orientation Seminar (OrSem) this year?

Yes. OrSem will be online this year. SMCL will provide learners their online student handbook and regulations and guidelines for MDLS.

Will there be an orientation on how to use the Microsoft 365 applications?

Yes.

Will Guidance and Counseling services be available?

Yes. The Counseling and Career Services Center will launch online sessions for learners and parents during the Orientation Seminar (OrSem).

TERTIARY EDUCATION DIVISION
Michaelean Distance Learning System (MDLS)
Frequently Asked Questions

Is SMCL open for enrollment?

Yes.

Will there be face-to-face classes?

It depends. Purely distance learning will be implemented for the first semester and blended learning will be implemented for the second semester.

What is the difference between blended and distance/online learning?

Blended learning is a combination of online classes and face-to-face classes while distance learning is full online.

Will there be face-to-face classes in blended program starting August?

To protect everyone from the dangers of coronavirus infection, SMCL will not hold face-to-face classes until the Department of Health (DOH) or the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) announces that it is safe for students to go to school.

Can a student choose distance learning and then switch to blended learning when the government allows face-to-face classes?

Not for the Tertiary Education Division. The schedules are set for distance learning on 1st semester and blended learning for 2nd semester.

Once the pandemic is over, will SMCL return to a normal daily schedule in the blended program?

Not yet. SMCL prepared Collegiate class programs that will ensure social distancing as a measure to minimize close contact. For example, a class of 40 will be divided into two groups. Each group of 20 students will only go to school twice a week, while the rest of the class requirements will be done at home or online.

What is MDLS?

MDLS stands for Michaelean Distance Learning System. MDLS is launched to allow students to continue their studies through classes that they can access remotely/online.

What is the learning management system (LMS) that SMCL will use?

SMCL subscribed to Microsoft 365. Instructors and students have access to Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Sway, Teams, Outlook, OneDrive, Forms, Stream, and others. This means the student can do all his or her tasks (chat, video calls, video streaming, word processing, report writing, test-taking, file sharing, collaborating, and the like) without leaving the Microsoft 365 environment. Each student may install these apps on up to 15 devices (5 smartphones, 5 tablets, 5 desktops/laptops).

Will there be a channel for parents?

Yes. Parents will be invited to join the official Viber Community for SMCL where they can get announcements and communicate with administrators and instructors.

What are the requirements for MDLS?

Because synchronous sessions are online, students need a stable Internet connection at home (wired, Wi-Fi, or mobile data). Each student also needs one device (a smartphone, a laptop/desktop, or a tablet). Microsoft 365 apps may be accessed through an Internet browser or by installing it through www.office.com for PC and Mac devices, or Play Store and App Store for mobile devices. Students may opt to use an earphone with a built-in microphone while attending online classes.

What if students do not have Internet access at home?

Students have the option to include a Pocket WiFi device (PLDT) upon enrollment. The device has free load for the first three months. The free plan for August to October is Bizload 300 which gives the user 1 GB every day for Microsoft 365 and YouTube plus additional 4 GB for browsing and downloads each month. After three months, students may choose the same plan or any of the following top-ups:

Bizload Learn 500: 2 GB per day for Microsoft 365 and YouTube plus 8 GB open access data
 Bizload Learn 800: 3 GB per day for Microsoft 365 and YouTube plus 10 GB open access data
 Bizload Learn 1000: 2 GB per day for Microsoft 365 and YouTube plus 16 GB open access data

All plans are valid for 31 days.

What adjustments were done in MDLS?

College students will be given blocks of time for each course within 5 weeks. One synchronous session per course will be conducted weekly and the rest will be asynchronous.:

Sample Schedule for TED*

First 2 weeks	Next 5 weeks	Next 5 weeks	Next 5 weeks
ORSEM	Course 1	Course 4	Course 7**
	Course 2	Course 5	Remediation
	Course 3	Course 6	Enhancement

* Schedule is a sample only. Actual class schedule is subject to change

**For those enrolled in more than 18 units

How can we make sure that learning outcomes will be achieved through MDLS?

SMCL will follow CHED's Program Learning Outcomes to ensure that students are given time to learn the most important skills.

How will classes be conducted?

There will be two parts: Synchronous and Asynchronous. Synchronous classes will be conducted as scheduled using Microsoft Teams whether by chat or video call. Each class will have a channel where they can find learning materials and assignments.

For the asynchronous part, students will receive instructions to answer assignments or create simple projects that will be submitted within 5 days.

Will students be given enough time to finish projects?

Yes. Assignments and simple projects are given a time frame of up to five days. Deadlines are different for every course so students can manage their schedule and focus on a small number of tasks at a time.

What if Internet is “slow”?

Classes are scheduled but flexible. As long as students can access their channels within the time frame, they will be accepted to the video conference. If in case students are not able to go online during a live class, instructors will provide the learning packet for the lesson in PDF format which can be downloaded through Microsoft Teams. Video lessons will also be available in Microsoft Stream. Quizzes and exercises will also be made available at a later time.

What can students do if Microsoft 365 is not accessible?

In the event that there are technical difficulties, send SMCL a message via the official Viber community account for Michaellean students.

Will there be a separate payment for the learning packets?

None. All learning materials are covered by the tuition fee. The online delivery of the materials (using Microsoft 365 subscription) is also paid for by the miscellaneous fees.

How about tests?

Tests will also be given online. To ensure that what we are assessing is authentic, SMCL will give non-traditional and situational exams that will require students to use their own knowledge and experiences. Rubrics will be provided so that students will be guided accordingly.

Will there be additional payment for books or learning materials?

It is up to the students to buy the textbooks which they can use as review materials, especially for professional courses for programs with licensure exams. Instructors/lecturers/professors will prepare the learning materials.

The Learning Resource Center also subscribed to an online repository of books and journals which students can access at <https://infotrac.galegroup.com/itweb/phsmcl>. Online resources are paid through miscellaneous fees.

Will there be discounts or grants?

All fees are discounted this year. SMCL will continue to accept government-issued grants such as the Iskolar ng Biñan and the Tertiary Education Subsidy.

Will the discounted fees be offered next school year?

Fees are subject to change next school year.

Should students be in uniform while attending online classes/video conferences?

There is no need for Type A uniform, but students are required to wear the organizational shirt for Monday sessions and a white shirt with collar for the remaining days of the week.

Will there be an Orientation Seminar (OrSem) this year?

Yes. OrSem will be online this year. SMCL will provide students their online student handbook and regulations and guidelines for MDLS.

Will there be an orientation on how to use the Microsoft 365 applications?

Yes.

Will Guidance and Counseling services be available?

Yes. The Counseling and Career Services Center will launch online sessions for students and parents during the Orientation Seminar (OrSem).