

August 21, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

The mailing with team newsletters and some additional information went out this morning. Hopefully you receive it soon. As mentioned in that letter, I wanted to post a bunch of information here – to keep the mailed letter brief.

- **Remote Learning** – For the approximately 12-13% of MMS students who have chosen to learn remotely for at least the first quarter: Things will look different from how they did in the spring. Students will be expected to follow their schedules (some specifics will be communicated by Teams regarding the times of classes). Students will be expected to participate in class discussions, complete assigned work, and take any assessments. Teachers will be using Google Classroom as a way to communicate and deliver/collect work. All remote 6th graders and those 7th and 8th grade students who are not scheduled for Spanish, JMG, or Reading is FAME during their Unified Arts time in the first quarter will take PE on an individual basis.

6th Grade Students who will be learning remotely:

Thursday, August 27th we will be offering 4 opportunities to come into school, receive your laptop training and leave with your laptop and necessary school resources to be successful remotely. It is truly important that you make one of the 4 times. Sessions will take place in our gymnasium. Masks will be worn and distancing will be in place. Please email Dillon Clark, dclark@rsu18.org with the slot you plan to attend! Looking forward to seeing you all!

Session 1: 9am-10am

Session 2: 11am-12pm

Session 3: 2pm-3pm

Session 4: 6pm-7pm

7th and 8th Grade Students who will be learning remotely:

You will need to come to school to collect laptops and resources necessary to be successful while working remotely. The times you can come to collect the laptops and resources are listed below.

Time Slot 1: August 27th 4pm-5pm

Time Slot 2: August 28th 8am-4pm at the front office.

If you are someone who needs alternate times earlier in the week to collect your laptop and resources, please make sure to call the office at Messalonskee Middle School so that we can make sure staff have time to gather the resources and have everything prepared for you.

- **Grading** – All grading will be in PowerSchool whether the student is in-person or remote. There will be grades. It will not be pass/fail as it was for MMS in the spring.

- **Attendance** – Attendance will be taken for in-person and remote students. If your son/daughter will not be attending classes (in-person or remote) please contact the main office to report the absence.
- **Classrooms** – Classrooms will look somewhat different as students will be set up 3’ apart. We are fortunate to have decent-sized classrooms at MMS. This will allow for the 3’ spacing for us. Each classroom is also equipped with a hand-sanitizer dispenser. Additionally, each classroom has a sink with soap to allow for frequent handwashing.
- **Changing Classes** – There will be some minor changes to the traffic flow at MMS. We will be utilizing all of the stairwells to reduce congestion. One goal we have in our scheduling process is to reduce transitions and keep students grouped together as much as possible. We are fortunate to have teams, which will assist us mightily in our grouping. Students will need to move around the building for classes, but at times teachers will move to the students in an effort to reduce transitions and contact.
- **Face Coverings** – Masks are required any time students are in the building, unless they are eating (6’ away from all others) or during designated mask breaks. We are hoping to utilize the many outdoor spaces (including a new 20’x40’ tent) at our disposal at MMS to allow for more breaks. I would encourage you to have your son/daughter practice wearing a mask as we lead up to the start of school.
- **Lunch** – We have increased from two lunches to three and they will be done by grade level. During lunch students must remain 6’ apart. This has obviously created some space challenges for us. We are fortunate to have a moveable wall in the cafeteria splitting it into two sections (each side will have an identical lunch line up area). Additionally, we will utilize the Chorus room, the tent, and classrooms. On nice days this fall, we will encourage many students to eat outside spread out in the available space. Students may also consider packing sunglasses, hats, and perhaps sunscreen for sun protection while classes and lunch are outside.
- **Drop off and pick up** – We are asking for drop off at MMS to occur after 7:30am. We are working through duty coverage and locations for students. In the past, students congregated in the Cafeteria and Gym before the start of school. Now, most students (unless eating breakfast) will go directly to team areas (advisory) upon arrival. If you must drop off your MMS student before 7:30am please reach out to me. We need to manage this number as duty coverage and locations are limited. Pick up will be similar to how it’s been in the past (to start – this may evolve). Students, when dismissed to the back parking lot will remain masked and physically distanced until they are picked up. We ask that you remain in your vehicles and keep moving forward as cars in front of you depart. **As of right now, we only have student coverage after school until 4pm. We are working on this as we speak and I will update when we have it ironed out.**
- **Access to MMS** – We will remain a locked school in order to help keep our students and staff safe and healthy. Visitors will only be admitted with a scheduled appointment/pre-approval. If

you need to dismiss your student, please call first and/or use our door buzzer/intercom system. This is another process that may evolve.

- **Sixth Grade Orientation** – Fortunately, our schedule still includes a day where only the 6th grade students will be in session (August 31st). We will focus on getting our 6th graders acclimated to the building at that time. We will offer a series of in-person tours for incoming 6th graders on Wednesday, 8/26. We will send this information out separately (will be emailed to 6th grade parents).
- **Advisory** – Your advisor’s name is on a sticker on your welcome letter or on the envelope. We have made a change to our advisory system. Now, advisories will be on-team only. So, there will be four per team. This will be the group that students will go to their UA’s with as well. Again, all of this is to lessen transitions and limit contact. The advisory is subject to change as numbers in each space dictate.
- **Supplies** – Teams have listed supplies, and I would recommend getting a set of colored pencils, scissors, glue sticks, highlighter, etc. even if not listed by teams. Sharing of supplies will be limited.
- ****Attention Evergreen-only Students/Families** – Please take this survey ASAP (a link is also in the mailing - <https://forms.gle/Z6tZRxj9GPJc8nmP6>)
- It is imperative that you reach out to the school if you’re wishing to start your child remotely for the first quarter and haven’t let us know yet. We are making the best plans we can with the numbers we have.
- This is all a work in progress and changes will occur. I will do my absolute best to get that information out to folks.
- I hope to post another update a week from now. They will be emailed and posted to the website.

Thank you,
Sam Dunbar
Principal - MMS