

August 26, 2021

Dear MMS Families,

I wanted to post a bunch of information here for you to peruse before school begins. This will also be emailed. Some of these pieces are review of what Mr. Gartley has already posted and/or sent out.

- **Attendance** – Attendance remains an important constant of school success. If your child is able to be in school, they really need to be. We will ask you to (similar to last year) monitor for Covid-symptoms on a daily basis as well. We will need to continue to focus on the health and well-being of all students at MMS.
- **Classrooms** – We are fortunate to have decent-sized classrooms at MMS. This will allow us to fit all of our students as well as offer some distance when we are able. Each classroom is also equipped with a hand-sanitizer dispenser. Additionally, each classroom has a sink with soap to allow for frequent handwashing.
- **Masks** – At this time, masks are required any time students are in the building, unless they are eating or during mask breaks. We will work to provide as many breaks as is practical. We are hoping to utilize the many outdoor spaces at our disposal at MMS to allow for more breaks from masks. Thank you for helping us to meet this requirement.
- **Lunch** – We will continue to have three lunches and they will be done by grade level. We will do our best to provide some distance in the cafeteria. On nice days this fall, we will encourage many students to eat outside. In truth, most students preferred to eat outside even on the not-so-nice days last year! Students may also consider packing sunglasses, hats, and perhaps sunscreen for sun protection while classes and lunch are outside.
- **Drop off and pick up** – Drop off at MMS cannot occur before 7:15am. We are working through duty coverage and locations for students. ****When dropping off and picking up, the NEW location is on the road that runs between the Williams School Playground and the train tracks from Pleasant St. A map is included with this.**** Pick up and drop off used to occur behind the school, but will now occur on this new road. For reference, this is off the front corner of the building on the cafeteria end. We ask that you remain in your vehicles and keep moving forward as cars in front of you depart. The access road between the MS and HS will be for bus traffic ONLY. We are working on after school coverage in the cafeteria (until 5pm). I will communicate if we cannot get this covered.
- **Access to MMS** – We will remain a semi-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.

- **Sixth Grade Orientation** – Fortunately, our schedule still includes a day where only the 6th grade students will be in session (September 1st). 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 Tuesday, 8/31. Please park behind MMS and come to the back entrance to meet a tour guide. We ask that all those coming inside for the tours wear masks. Additionally, please limit the tour to the MMS student and one adult. However, I do understand that this may not always be possible, so we will accommodate larger groups if absolutely necessary.
- **Advisory** – Your MMS students’ advisor’s name is on the schedule mailed to them. This is where students will start their day each day. The advisory groups is subject to change as numbers in each space dictate. This is a good person to reach out to with questions about MMS.
- **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 allowed this year, but if you prefer your MMS student not share, then I do recommend that they have their own.
- **New Staff/ Team Evergreen** – We have some new staff on board here at MMS. One that I want to point out is if your MMS student is on Team Evergreen and was supposed to have Mrs. Overlock for science and/or advisory, that will now be with our newly hired science teacher, Mr. Withee.
- As things from our “back to school packet” (given to students on the first day) get filled out (and there are a lot of things – sorry), please remember to be sure we have an accurate email address on file as I will update weekly via email.

Thank you,
Sam Dunbar
Principal - MMS