

Dear MHS Families,

You are receiving this message because you will have a student at Marietta High School for the 2025–2026 school year.

Over the past several months, our Marietta City Schools Board of Education has taken important steps to strengthen school safety and support a learning environment focused on student success. As we begin the new year, two Board-approved changes will take effect at MHS: the addition of a weapons detection system at school entry and updated expectations for cellphones and personal devices.

### **Weapons Detection**

When students arrive each morning, they will walk through a weapons detection system while entering the school building. The only entry points to MHS in the mornings will now be the main entrance doors and the cafeteria doors by the bus lane. During the school day, we will continue our established check-in procedures. These systems are designed to identify potential weapons, not everyday items like phones, keys, or wallets. These systems operate similarly to those used at MHS sports events.

- Students will walk through the detectors without stopping and can keep everyday items, such as keys, cellphones, and wallets, in their backpacks or pockets as they pass through the system – these common items will not cause a security alert. Students will be asked to remove their Chromebook or personal laptop from their backpacks before passing through the weapons detection system. Other commonly alerted items which students are encouraged to limit or potentially remove from their backpack include: eyeglass cases, large three-ring binders, and umbrellas.
- If an alert occurs as your child passes through the weapons detector, they will be sent to secondary screening to find the source of the alert. Our goal is to ensure safety while allowing students to enter the building as safely and seamlessly as possible.

For more information, please refer to the [Weapons Detection FAQ](#).

## **Personal Devices**

As communicated this spring, we are limiting the use of personal devices—including cellphones, smartwatches, earbuds/headphones, and personal laptops/tablets—during instructional time.

- During class, students are expected to keep cellphones, smartwatches, earbuds/headphones, and personal laptops/tablets put away.
- If a student is observed with a cellphone, smartwatch, earbuds/headphones, or personal laptop/tablet, the item(s) will be confiscated by an administrator and returned to the parent/guardian.
- Students may use these items during lunch and class transitions.

For more information, please refer to the [Cellphones/Personal Devices FAQ](#).

## **Vape Detectors in Student Bathrooms**

As part of our broader commitment to student safety and well-being, the MCS Board of Education approved the installation of vape detection systems in student bathrooms at Marietta High School. These detectors are designed to discourage vaping on campus and ensure that all students have access to safe, healthy spaces throughout the school day. If a vape detector alerts, school administrators will respond and intervene as appropriate.

We look forward to welcoming your child back to school on August 1. I reminded my own children last night that we have 15 days left of summer break, and they need to start going to bed earlier. I didn't have any luck last night with that plan, and don't feel super hopeful about tonight; however, the first day of school will come regardless.

Grateful for each of you and the year ahead.

Sincerely,  
Grant

Grant Rivera, Ed.D.  
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