

# **IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS**

## **BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT (FOR PARENTS ONLY)**

For the 2024 – 2025 school year, Back to School Night will be held on Tuesday, September 17, 2024 (Last Names - A through L) and Wednesday, September 25, 2024 (Last Names - M through Z). Back to School Night begins at 7PM.

## **SCHOOL SUPPLIES**

There is no structured school supply list for Morris Hills High School. Students are expected to bring their Chromebooks, fully charged, to school each day. Teachers will inform students of supplies needed for their respective classes.

## **SCHEDULE CHANGE POLICY**

The student schedules reflect course selections approved by you this past spring. At that time, we requested that the selection of courses be completed in a serious, thoughtful manner.

Because school staffing/organization is, in large part, predicated upon the choices that were made in the spring, any change in existing schedules must be done with utmost caution.

If there are computer errors or if the schedule is not as requested, students will be able to adjust it according to a **TIMETABLE FOR COURSE CHANGES** that will be provided to all students during the first day of classes. Please be assured that student progress is our primary goal. Your understanding and cooperation in this matter is appreciated.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call our School Counseling Supervisor, Ms. Rivera-Carney, at 973-664- 2313.

## **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Our expectations with regard to student attendance are as follows: pupil accountability, parental involvement, teacher communication, and administrative consistency. We urge you to review our attendance procedures found in our student/parent handbook. While you should review the entire section on attendance procedures, we have highlighted the most important aspects:

1. Attendance will be taken in each block. Punctuality to class is very important because students who are late to class will accumulate absences as per district policy.
2. Please use the voicemail in the Attendance Office which allows you to call in a student absence in both English and/or Spanish the evening before or the morning of that absence. Our Attendance Office telephone number is 973-664-2305.

3. We will make every effort to contact parents by telephone about a student's absence either on that school day or evening to verify reasons for absence or tardiness.
4. Truancy violations are clearly defined in terms of school and parent legal responsibility.
5. All district students will be allowed a maximum of eight (8) absences for a full year course, six (6) absences for Physical Education, four (4) absences for semester courses, and two (2) absences for Health classes.
6. No one is permitted to leave campus during the school day without parental permission and only in case of emergency. Passes will not be issued to students for the purpose of walking home for lunch.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call Assistant Principal, Mrs. Barkocy, in the Attendance Office at 973-664- 2305.

### **ONLINE GRADE ACCESS**

The Morris Hills Regional School District's student information system is called Aspen. The system houses a parent and student grade portal. The web-based system allows parents/guardians and students to monitor academic grades, assignments, and attendance in real time.

### **DRESS CODE POLICY**

The Board of Education respects the right of students to determine their dress, providing they meet the standards that have been established. We urge you to review our dress code policy found in our student/parent handbook. While you should review the entire section on dress code, we have highlighted the most important aspects:

1. Extremely low cut, tight fitting, or transparent clothes, bare midriffs, and suggestive clothing are not allowed.
2. Skirts, dresses, and shorts must be a minimum length of five inches above the knee cap.
3. Sleeveless shirts are permitted; however, straps must cover undergarments and be at least 3 inches in thickness.
4. Pants must be worn at the waist, so that underwear is not visible.
5. Hats, bandanas, or head bands are not allowed except for religious observances.
6. Chains, cables, or other jewelry that is deemed unsafe or could be used as weapons are not allowed.
7. Clothing or accessories that refer to sex, drugs, or alcohol is prohibited; clothing that is demeaning to gender, race, or ethnic groups is prohibited; clothing that has an affiliation with any gang or organization associated with criminal activities is prohibited. This may include religious symbols.
8. Outdoor jackets, coats, or winter hats are not allowed to be worn during the school day.

9. All types of colored beads, including rosary beads, are prohibited to be worn in school.
10. Blankets are prohibited to be carried or worn in the school building. Slippers are prohibited as well.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this dress code policy, please call the school Principal, Dr. Toriello, at 973-664- 2301.

### **PUPIL RECORDS**

Parents and adult age pupils are advised that only authorized individuals, organizations, and agencies shall be granted access to individual pupil records. Access shall be limited to those records requisite to the specific purpose to be served by such access. Parents or adult pupils wishing records to be sent to colleges, employers, or agencies must submit their request in writing to the Supervisor of School Counseling. Parents or adult pupils wishing to view student records are to make an appointment with the Supervisor of School Counseling.

Upon graduation or withdrawal from the Morris Hills Regional District, parents or adult students may request copies of the student's records. Pupil records that are not required to be retained are considered "permitted records." All mandated records are kept in perpetuity. You are advised that all "permitted records" will be destroyed upon graduation. If you wish to receive a copy of them, you must notify the Principal's Office, in writing, prior to July 1st of your last year in attendance.

### **DRIVERS SAFETY PROGRAM**

The Morris Hills Regional District, along with the Rockaway Borough Police Department, has instituted a program for all students requesting permission to park on school campus. This program is intended to educate parents, along with students, about the State Motor Vehicle Laws and serious safety concerns regarding teen drivers.

In order for your child to receive a decal for parking on campus during the 2024 - 2025 school year (SENIORS ONLY), he or she and parents/guardians must review the Share the Keys PowerPoint and the Share the Keys Resource Guide created by the Rockaway Borough Police Department and Northern New Jersey Safe Kids.

If you have any questions regarding this procedure, please feel free to contact our School Resource Officer at 973-664- 2479.

### **CANINE SEARCHES**

In Morris County, there continues to be significant drug use among young people. We realize that we are not immune to these occurrences, and we will remain aggressive in our efforts to eliminate opportunities in the school setting.

The Morris Hills Regional District has a zero-tolerance policy with regard to any form of alcohol or drug involvement here at school and at school-related functions. We have a comprehensive substance abuse policy that protects the majority, seeks to detect and help those involved, and provides school support services.

We offer programs for students, faculty, staff, and parents that we hope will raise their knowledge and sensitivity to the dangers and implications of substance abuse.

Administratively, we take a proactive approach to the problem of substance abusers among our students. It is our goal to make efforts to keep our school drug and alcohol free. We will continue our involvement in a program, under the direction of the Rockaway Borough Police, called **Project PROCEED - Pro-Active Response of Concerned Educators Eliminating Drugs**. The goal of this alliance is to keep drugs out of our schools. This program includes staff awareness meetings aimed at providing insight into the intricacies of drug use including: how substances are packaged, symptoms to look for in students suspected of being under the influence of drugs, and the current trends in substance abuse. This comprehensive effort to keep drugs out of our schools involves the use of trained search dogs in cooperation with our local police and the Morris County Sheriff's Department.

Through the use of these trained dogs, random searches throughout our school and periodic monitoring of our campus by local and county enforcement personnel will take place unannounced during the instructional day.

We ask that you share this information with your sons or daughters. We intend to maintain and foster an atmosphere that promotes the health, safety, and welfare of our students and staff and deters drug possession and/or use on our campus. We look forward to your continued support of these programs, both here at school and in the community.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call Assistant Principal, Mr. Merle, at 973-664- 2303.

### **SCIENCE LAB DISSECTION OPTION**

Under New Jersey Law, schools are required to notify parents or guardians of the option of choosing not to participate in certain experiments involving animals (*PL 2005, Chapter 266, enacted 1/5/2006*). Students may elect to not dissect, vivisect, incubate, capture, or otherwise harm or destroy animals or any parts thereof in conjunction with a course of instruction.

For students who exercise this option, alternative educational projects will be provided. Years earlier, the Morris Hills Regional District adopted a policy very similar to this state law.

The law requires parents or guardians to notify the school within two weeks of receipt of this notification of their desire to have their child exempt from participation and provided with an alternative educational project.

If, after speaking with your child, you wish to exercise this option, please notify the student's school counselor through a written request.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this exemption and the alternative educational projects that are available, please contact Dr. Kevin Doyle, District Supervisor of Instructional Services for Science, at 973-664-2242.

### **FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION PROGRAM**

The Morris Hills Regional District has had an ongoing Family Life Education Program infused into its Health Education Curriculum for many years. In compliance with Article 6:19-7.1 of the New Jersey Administrative Code, with respect to parental notification, you are hereby informed that Section b(1) of the code states the following:

The parents and guardians of pupils enrolled in the district shall receive annually an outline of the curriculum and a list of instructional materials for the grade of their child, including notification about how to receive a copy of the curriculum. The district shall make available for review in each school the complete curriculum and all instructional materials prior to use in the classrooms. Upon the request of the parents and guardians, the material shall be made available for their review.

Section (i) of the code states the following:

Any pupil, whose parent or guardian presents to the school principal a signed statement that any part of the instruction in family life education is in conflict with his/her conscience, or sincerely held moral or religious beliefs, shall be excused from that portion of the course where such instruction is being given and no penalties as to credit or graduation shall result therefrom. (N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.6 et seq)

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the Family Life Education Program, please call the school Principal, Dr. Toriello, at 973-664- 2301.