

Maranacook Community Middle School
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“A Caring School Community Dedicated to Excellence”

September 2020

Dear Families,

Welcome to the 2020-21 school year at MCMS! This year, in place of having an in-person Open House, we will be holding a Virtual Open House. You can watch the full video for the [Open House here](#), and/or read through this letter. There are links to video segments in this letter, too. Both versions will provide you with the same information. Please enjoy our Virtual Open House in whatever way works best for you!

This has been a very busy summer for MCMS. Staff have been working incredibly hard in preparation for this upcoming school year, making sure the school is prepared for students physically, emotionally and academically. Before getting into the logistics of school return, I wanted to take a minute to thank a few staff members for their hard work over these past few months and to welcome our new staff.

Thank You

Our custodians: Mary Bridges, Marion Curtis, Lance Curtis, with support from district maintenance:

Throughout this past spring and summer, our custodians were constantly moving, cleaning, and rearranging our classrooms to help prepare for student return. Their tireless efforts have not gone unnoticed and we are very appreciative of their hard work!

Our school nurse: Angela Palmer: Angela has been working all summer through state school nursing meetings, district safety meetings and with the school's emergency team to help us prepare for a safe return to school. She has been a true leader for us as we navigate these times.

Our MCMS Tech Team: Denise Churchill and MaryAnn Florek, with district tech support from Diane MacGregor: The MCMS Tech team spent many hours cleaning up and prepping laptops and technology for students to be able to use. Due to their hard work, our school is more prepared than ever before with the technology we have.

MCMS PTO and Family Support: A big thank you to the PTO for organizing a supply list and purchasing extra supplies to help us support our students. Also, a big thank you to families who donated to us from this supply list! If you would like to make a donation, please check out our [Amazon Supply wish list here](#). Thank you!

Welcome New MCMS Staff!

Anna Satterfield: Anna has worked at MCMS for many years as a teacher on the Moose Team. For the 2020-21 school year, she has taken on the role of Math Interventionist. Anna is a natural leader, student-centered, and a phenomenal teacher. I am very excited to have her take on this new challenge this year!

Amy Jones: Like Anna, Amy Jones is not necessarily new to MCMS, but she will be joining us this year in a new role! Amy will be joining the Sebago Team. Amy's enthusiasm, care for students and energy are contagious and she is going to be a wonderful addition to this team

Tabitha Bickford: Tabitha (Tabby) will be joining our Moose Island Team as a team teacher. She is a recent graduate from the University of Farmington. She is a Maine native and currently lives in

Farmington. In her spare time, she enjoys gardening, painting, and reading about U.S History and politics. She has already proven to be a valuable member of the MCMS community with her planning efforts throughout this summer!

Tyne Turcotte: Tyne was previously a fifth grade teacher at Manchester Elementary School. She will be joining us at MCMS this year as a Moose Island teacher. Tyne has worked collaboratively and tirelessly with her team this summer to help prepare for the school year and I am thankful to have her as a member of the MCMS Team.

Barbara McClure: Barbara will be joining our wellness center as a the new Administrative Assistant! Barbara has spent many hours on the Maranacook campus! Her grandsons attend school here, and both play basketball, so she gets to enjoy these games in the winter time. We are excited to have her join our team!

Carey Bor: Carey comes to us from Mt. Vernon Elementary. She will be joining us as an Ed Tech III in Rachael Holland's special education program. Carey knows the middle school well as she is also a parent to one of our 8th graders! Welcome to MCMS, Carey!

Return to School

The school will be requiring many safety precautions this year to prevent the spread of COVID-19. We are doing this because we care about our students, staff and community.

- Everyone in the school building is required to wear a mask, unless it is a meal time or students are engaging in outdoor learning. Some people may choose to wear a mask and a face shield, but face shields may not be worn without a mask.
- We have created a cohort system to limit exposure and mixing of students as much as possible. This means children will have few groupings which they will be part of each day. Most students will only be with their Advisee group (of approximately 10 students) or their Cohort group (of up to 12 students) each day.
- In addition:
 - Transitions between classes will be staggered to limit the number of students in the hall;
 - All walking areas (in the hall and in classrooms) have a traffic flow.
 - Water fountains will be unavailable this year, so we ask for students to bring a water bottle each day.

For more information about some of these precautions, please watch this [short video from our health teacher, Mrs. Cote.](#)

MCMS Fall Schedule

This year, classrooms will be set up in a fashion that allows for safe social distancing. Please [watch this video by Senora Barley](#) that describes what the classroom will look like.

- After getting into school each morning, students will gather in their Advisee room. The school doors will open at 8am. During morning advisee time, children will have an opportunity to eat the school breakfast, talk with their advisor and fellow advisees, and have an informal tutorial time. We will also be utilizing a social emotional learning (SEL) curriculum this year that will be delivered some morning or afternoon advisee times. [You can learn more information about the SEL curriculum here.](#)
- After Advisee time, students will travel to their classes, which have been organized for students to be in their Team Cohort for their on-team classes, world language class, and unified arts class.
 - Each world language will be offered in quarters on- team. Students will have one quarter of Technology, instead of world language this year. For students who want to go above and beyond in world language, there will be additional resources available on the MCMS World Language website.

- Señora Barley, Frau György and Monsieur Watson will be available by e-mail to answer questions and also will hold a virtual office hour via Google Meets each Wednesday.
- Like world language, students will have each Unified Arts class (Art, Music, Health, and Phys. Ed) for one quarter this year. Below is the rotation for world language, technology and unified arts:

World Language				
	French	Spanish	German	Technology
Moose	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 1	Quarter 4
Royal	Quarter 3	Quarter 2	Quarter 4	Quarter 1
Katahdin	Quarter 1	Quarter 4	Quarter 2	Quarter 3
Acadia	Quarter 4	Quarter 1	Quarter 3	Quarter 2

Unified Arts					
	Health (on Team)	Health	Art	Music	Phys Ed
Sebago	Quarter 1		Quarter 2 (with Acadia)	Quarter 3 (with Acadia)	Quarter 4 (with Acadia)
Moose		Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Quarter 2	Quarter 1
Royal		Quarter 2	Quarter 1	Quarter 4	Quarter 3
Katahdin		Quarter 4	Quarter 3	Quarter 1	Quarter 2
Acadia		Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4

- Snack time will be provided each day between 9:45-10:45. Students are responsible for bringing their own snack. We ask that snacks are nutritious as much as possible. If providing a snack is an issue for you, please contact your child's advisor so we can help.
 - We will have some emergency snacks available for children who forget to bring a snack.
- Lunch will be with Advisee groups in classrooms. School lunch will be available each day. [Linked here is the September menu.](#)
- Students will be dismissed after lunch, from their Advisee rooms. Students will be dismissed at staggered times, depending on their return to home plan. For those doing parent pick up: students will be dismissed just after 1pm. Parents should pick their child up in the lower parking lot sometime between 1-1:15pm.
 - To learn more about the morning arrival and afternoon dismissal process, please [check out this video from Mrs. Reiter.](#)
- For more information about schoolwide program structures, please review a summary of our [school-wide program structure.](#)

Below is a sample of the bell schedule per day:

Bell Schedule for Maranacook Community Middle School, Fall 2020

Gold Day	8-8:25am: Tutorial (in advisee)	8:25-8:45am: Advisee Time	Black Period 1: 8:57- 9:57	Black Period 2: 10:10- 11:05	Black Period 3: 11:09-12:07	12:15- Dismissal: Advisee Time & Lunch
Black Day	8-8:25am: Tutorial (in advisee)	8:25-8:45am: Advisee Time	Black Period 1: 8:57- 9:57	Black Period 2: 10:10- 11:05	Black Period 3: 11:09-12:07	12:15- Dismissal: Advisee Time & Lunch

** Start and End times are staggered on teams to allow for greater social distancing in the hallways*

New Standard Operating Procedures

Also aligned to our school day are our new standard operating procedures that we will use across the school. To help provide you with an overview of these, we made a video, [linked here](#).

First Week Schedule

School starts up on September 8th! The sixth graders will be the only students in the building and will spend about half their day in their advisee groups and the other half with their team. Students will be given overviews and tours of the school, meet their teachers and participate in team building that allows for social distancing. On September 9th, we will welcome all students back. We will be following our new schedule and will start the morning with instruction on the standard operating procedures.

Here is a visual description of the first week of school:

Schedule for 9/7-9/11/20 (first week of school) Only				
Monday 9/7	Tuesday 9/8	Wednesday 9/9	Thursday 9/10	Friday 9/11
HOLIDAY	Grade 6 Students ONLY <i>Time to spend time with Advisee Groups and Teams</i>	All MCMS: In Person <i>Gold Day Schedule</i>	All MCMS: In Person <i>Black Day Schedule</i>	All MCMS: In Person <i>Gold Day Schedule</i>

At Home Learning

Here is what the at home learning plan entails for MCMS students that have opted for this programming: Although we want to provide learning activities indicative of “at school” learning, the school’s focus will be on keeping children emotionally and physically safe and engaged in learning. The ultimate goal of this At-Home Supported Learning Program is to provide direction, information, and resources to ensure all students have opportunities for continued learning that regularly engage them and focus on both content and skills. [More information about what this program entails can be found here](#).

Other MCMS Services

Response to Intervention (RTI)

We have an extensive RTI Program in reading, writing and mathematics. This year, we will be providing more students with ever before an opportunity to participate in additional services to help support their academic growth in these areas. Our reading and writing interventionist is Kathy Farrin. Her program focuses on supporting students not only with reading and writing support, but also with support in executive functioning skills (including time management and organization). Our math intervention program is led by Anna Satterfield. Both Anna and Tom Radcliff will be providing students with additional support in math and in executive functioning. Please watch [this informational video from Anna Satterfield](#) for more information about the math intervention program. In addition, more information about [interventional support can be found here](#).

Wellness Center

Our Wellness Center is the anchor point for many of our students. We have a full time school counselor and a full time nurse available. In addition we have contracted with a local counseling and behavioral health organization to provide services during the school day to students who may not otherwise get them. We also have a program in place with Maine General Hospital that allows students to receive medical services at school. To use this service, families are able to use their insurance and have their children taken care of without having to dismiss them from school. For more information, you can watch a quick informational videos from [Mrs. Palmer \(for physical health\)](#) and [Mrs. Mohlar \(for emotional health\)](#).

Clubs and Athletics

Due to the pandemic, fall athletics have been cancelled at MCMS. We will re-evaluate this for winter athletics, based on current safety guidelines. This year, we also will not be offering as many clubs, in order to mitigate risk factors. With that, we are creatively thinking about ways we can still offer clubs, knowing some will be done remotely, using video conferencing and other technological supports to make this happen. You will find out about clubs available through the Friday newsletter.

Behavioral Intervention: We use Positive Behavior Supports Strategies and Restorative Practices at MCMS. Let's take a [few minutes to watch Mr. Sirois, our dean of students](#), who will describe what this means.

Team Specific Information

Each team will also be hosting a Virtual Open House via Zoom. Please check your email for a Zoom invitation to your child's Team-based Open House.

Upcoming Events

- Team-based Open House (via Zoom) (9/1-9/3, see your email invitation from the team)
- 7th and 8th Laptop Pick Up (9/1-9/3)
 - 6th grade laptops will be delivered during school
- First day of school for 6th grade (9/8)
- First day of school for everyone (9/9)
- Picture day (9/28)
- Flu Day (9/29 and 10/1)

We know there is a lot of information to take in this year. To see specific information about the MCMS Return to Learn plan, including Frequently Asked Questions, you can go to our website at: <http://maranacookrsu38me.apptegy.us/o/mcms/browse/161188> I am so grateful to work in such a caring community and appreciate your support during these times. Thank you for your communication and questions throughout this summer as we navigate through these challenging times! **As a school, we wanted to end this year's virtual open house by [sending a little message to our students, linked here](#).**