

James F. Jette
Principal, ext 5503

The seal of the Town of Milton, Massachusetts, is circular with a red border. It contains the text "TOWN OF MILTON" at the top, "25 Gile Road" in the center, and "SEPT. 1640 INCORPORATED" at the bottom. The seal is partially overlaid by the school's name and address.
MILTON HIGH SCHOOL
25 Gile Road
Milton, MA 02186 617-696-4470

Brian Mackinaw
Vice Principal, ext 5507

Benjamin Kelly
Vice Principal, ext 5504

Respect

Achievement

Citizenship

September 8, 2020

Dear MHS Students and Families,

After many months of uncertainty, we are excited to finally welcome students back to school on Wednesday, September 16th. Undoubtedly, the 2020-21 school year will look and feel far different than any we have embarked on before, but our mission remains the same: **to cultivate a supportive environment that graduates students who are equipped to reach their potential and contribute to the global community by engaging them in a rigorous, enriching educational program that emphasizes respect, achievement, and citizenship.** Despite the ongoing challenges in our world, country and local community, we are committed to providing an educational experience that is rigorous, engaging, inclusive and balanced.

While many details of the 2020-21 school year are still under development, we wish to provide our students and families with an update on school opening.

Learning Model Choice

All families have selected either the Hybrid Choice Model or the Remote Choice Model to begin the school year. Families who did not respond were automatically entered into the Hybrid Choice Model. The [MPS Fall Reopening Plan](#) outlines the procedures for any requests to change between learning models. Due to the complexity of scheduling a comprehensive high school of 1150 students with open enrollment across two learning models, please be aware that requests for changes between models will take some time and we cannot guarantee the same set of classes.

Student Schedules

Student schedules and advisory assignments will be available prior to the start of school, by Tuesday September 15, 2020. We continue to work on our student schedules every day to honor as many course requests as possible. When schedules are available, they will be emailed to students and families, and available via PlusPortal accounts.

Due to the complexity of scheduling a comprehensive high school of 1150 students with open enrollment across two learning models, we cannot guarantee that students will receive every course they requested in the Spring. We appreciate students' and families' flexibility and patience as we work to make schedules equitable for all. Please keep an open mind, especially if placed into an elective course that was not a first choice.

Cohorts

To ensure balanced class sizes, we intend to analyze class rosters prior to announcing cohorts. Cohorts (Group 1 or Group 2) will be announced as soon as possible.

First Day of School

The first day of school is on Wednesday, September 16 and will follow a “Day 1”. Please review the [MHS Learning Schedule](#) prior to the first day of school. Students must check their MPS Email Accounts and PlusPortals for assignments and specifics from their teachers, including Google Meet links for remote classes. On Day 1...

- *Hybrid Choice Model, Group 1* attends live classes at Milton High School beginning at 7:50AM; attends live remote classes in the afternoon from home beginning at 1:10PM.
- *Hybrid Choice Model, Group 2* learns at home beginning at 7:50AM; attends live remote classes in the afternoon from home beginning at 1:10PM.
- *Remote Choice Model, Group 1* attends live remote classes from home beginning at 7:50AM; attends live remote classes in the afternoon from home beginning at 1:10PM.
- *Remote Choice Model, Group 2* learns at home beginning at 7:50AM; attends live remote classes in the afternoon from home beginning at 1:10PM.

COVID-19 Precautions

Wearing a mask and physical distancing have proven to be effective in mitigating the risks of COVID-19. It is imperative that students wear a mask/face covering at all times, and practice physical distancing of at least 6 feet. The [MPS Face Covering Policy](#) will be strictly enforced. Students should practice wearing a mask for extended periods of time over the next week. Students should bring a mask that they are comfortable wearing, as well as an extra mask in case one becomes soiled.

Student and Family Handbook

The 2020-2021 Student and Family Handbook will be made available via email and on the website as soon as possible. In addition to the traditional Handbook, a “COVID-19 Addendum” will be published, containing the policies and procedures that have been adjusted for the school year. The information published in the COVID-19 Addendum may be changed as necessary based on the most current information available. The COVID-19 Addendum will be updated and re-distributed to students and families as necessary.

Building Procedures

Mornings at Milton High School

No breakfast will be served in the mornings at MHS. As such, **the building will not open to students until 7:30AM**, unless an earlier appointment is arranged with a staff member. Once the building is opened, it is expected that students make their way to their first classroom of the day. Wearing a mask

and physical distancing both outside the school and in the hallways are imperative. There is no loitering in hallways in groups.

Lockers

Lockers will not be issued to students for the 2020-21 school year. Students should pack their backpacks with the materials they will need for the 3 or 4 scheduled classes on a given day. Any student facing a significant hardship as a result of this policy may contact a Vice Principal to request an exemption.

Bathroom Use

To further encourage physical distancing, students are expected to avoid the bathrooms during transition periods between class. No more than three students are permitted in the bathrooms at one time. If three individuals are in the bathroom, students must wait outside while wearing their mask and maintaining physical distance. Bathroom use is *not* the time to take a mask break, as this is a shared space. Students must wash hands thoroughly, and use hand sanitizer where available.

Hallway Travel

Students must travel hallways on the right, close to the lockers, and leave space between others in front/behind. Stairwells have been designated as one-way, either “UP” or “DOWN”. Please observe all directional signage. Passing time between classes has been increased to 6 minutes to assist with these changes.

Mask Breaks

To make the most of students’ limited in-person class time, there are no scheduled full-class mask breaks. In classrooms where at least 6 feet of physical distancing can be maintained, students may take brief mask breaks while seated, at the discretion of the teacher. Students may ask their teacher to step into the hallway for a moment if a longer break is needed.

Water Bottles

Students are encouraged to bring a labeled water bottle to school each day. Water fountains are unavailable as a safety precaution, but additional water bottle filling stations are being installed. Students should avoid drinking their water while transitioning between classes in the hallways. Students may drink water while taking short mask breaks while seated in the classroom when physical distancing can be maintained.

Food Policy

There will be no food allowed in the building. Exemptions must be approved by the School Nurse.

Office Hours & Dismissal

Students may sign up in advance for Office Hours with a teacher. If students choose not to sign up, or if their teacher’s Office Hours schedule is already full for the day, students must exit the building and begin traveling home. There is to be no loitering in groups inside or outside of the school building after dismissal.

Food Services

MPS Food Services will offer meals to all students in the Hybrid Choice Model as they are leaving the building on the days they are in attendance. Each day, students will receive up to two breakfasts and two lunches to-go. Meals will be free to all students through December 2020. If a USDA waiver is not

extended, students accounts will be charged accordingly. Meals will remain free for our free and reduced students. Meals will be consumed at home.

MPS Food Services will provide a drive through model (similar to this past Spring/Summer) which will offer seven breakfasts and seven lunches to our students in the Remote Choice Model at a weekly distribution location. Meals will be free to all students through December 2020. If a waiver is not extended students accounts will be charged accordingly. Meals will remain free for our free and reduced students. Meals will be consumed at home.

Transportation

Please see the [2020-21 Transportation Letter](#) for information on School Bus Passes. Transportation questions can be directed to [Rachel Schewe](#), Director of Transportation.

BYOD/Chromebooks

Milton High School remains a “Bring Your Own Device” (other than a smartphone) school. It is expected that students will have their device charged, with them, and ready to use on a daily basis. Chromebooks are available to loan from the school on a year-long basis for students who do not have their own device.

Any student that needs to borrow an MPS Chromebook for the 2020-21 school year should email helpdesk@miltonps.org and inform them of your need to borrow a Chromebook. Be sure to provide them with your name and your student’s name. When the Chromebook is ready to be picked up, you will receive an email stating that it is ready for pickup at the MHS Main Office.

Athletics

Fall 2020 Athletics Registration is not yet available. Information will be emailed to all MHS families when final decisions have been made regarding what sports will be available during the Fall season. Please visit the [Athletics Website](#) for more information.

Tryouts for the Fall Sports Season will start on Monday, September 21, 2020. Registration will open the week of September 14, 2020. Please check the [Athletics Website](#) for more information. All sports except Volleyball, Football and Fall Cheer are currently on for this fall. Volleyball, Football and Cheer have been moved to the "floating season" as described by the MIAA in the latest release, in conjunction with DESE/EEA guidelines. Please see the Milton HS Athletics Twitter for information as it is released (@MHS_Wildcats_).

While we await more guidelines, we advise all student-athletes to get their paperwork in order for when registration opens. Registration information can be found on the Athletics Website, or linked [here](#). Please make sure your student-athlete has a valid physical (within 13 months) for registration. Physicals expire immediately after 13 months.

This is still a very fluid situation. More information will follow in the next week with schedules and tryout information.

Clubs & Activities

MHS intends to offer a wide variety of clubs and activities for the 2020-21 school year. Clubs and activities will operate predominantly remotely for the foreseeable future. A list of clubs and activities along with advisor contact information will be made available as soon as possible, with the intention of beginning clubs and activities on October 1, 2020.

School Calendars

The [MPS District Calendar](#) and [Milton High School Academic Calendar](#) will be updated throughout the year as necessary.

New Student Orientation

New Student Orientation will take place on Monday afternoon, September 14, 2020. The event will take place predominantly outside on Brooks Field, and will include outside activities and a tour of the building in small groups. In the event of inclement weather, we will communicate via email as soon as possible to reschedule to Tuesday, September 15, 2020.

Freshmen with last names A through I, and all students new to Milton High School in grades 10, 11 & 12 are scheduled for 1:30PM to 2:30PM.

Freshmen with last names J through Z are scheduled for 3:00PM to 4:00PM.

- Students should be dropped by the Brooks Field (MHS Turf Field) on Gile Road. Please pull up to the gate and drop off. Follow the directions of all staff present.
- Physical Distancing must be maintained at all time, and masks are required for all students
- Please do not bring any belongings with you that cannot be easily carried
- No food is allowed
- Students who are sick must stay home
- Students must leave the MHS campus following their session

All freshman and new students to Milton High school are invited to attend this event, regardless of their choice in Hybrid or Remote Learning Models. Any students who do not wish to attend New Student Orientation physically are invited to attend remotely on Monday, September 14, 2020 at 4:30PM using the login information below:

Meeting ID:

meet.google.com/qwk-vgqx-gfq

Phone Numbers:

(US)+1 530-994-2227

PIN: 125 260 376#

Immunizations & Physicals

Please be aware that at the start of the 2020-2021 school year, school nurses will need to obtain an up-to-date physical exam and immunization record for the meningococcal conjugate vaccine for students

entering the 11th grade, unless a religious or medical exemption applies. All other immunization requirements for school entry will remain the same. All 11th grade students should have an up to date physical exam and immunization record prior to the entrance to school.

The specific new immunization requirement for 11th grade entry is: 1 booster dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine (Men ACWY) received on or after 16 years of age. [School Immunization Requirements](#).

You can email an updated physical exam (within the past 12 months) and immunization record to the school nurse, Kim Coughlin kacoughlin@miltonps.org or send it to: Milton High School, Attn: Kim Coughlin, 25 Gile Road, Milton, MA 02186.

MHS Leadership Team

We wish to congratulate former MHS Principal James Jette on his appointment of Superintendent of the Milton Public Schools. We are excited for Mr. Jette and we know that he will bring the same passion and leadership to the district as he has to Milton High School for the past eight years. In Mr. Jette's absence, and until a Principal is named, please know that the MHS Leadership Team is working tirelessly and collaboratively to ensure a safe return to school.

Sincerely,

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