

Respect

Achievement

Citizenship

Karen J. Cahill
Principal, ext. 5503

The seal of the Town of Milton, Massachusetts, is a circular emblem. It features a central shield with a ship, surrounded by the text "TOWN OF MILTON" at the top and "INCORPORATED 1640" at the bottom. The seal is red and white.
MILTON HIGH SCHOOL
25 Gile Road
Milton, MA 02186 617-696-4470

Benjamin J. Kelly
Vice Principal, ext. 5504

Brian E. Mackinaw
Vice Principal, ext. 5507

November 13, 2020

Good afternoon MHS Students and Families,

Thank you to our students and families for your flexibility in today's schedule change. As we are made aware of confirmed positive cases of Covid-19, we will continue to react accordingly and make changes to our learning models to keep our staff and students safe. While this is not an easy decision to make and not one made lightly, we appreciate your understanding and flexibility. **I will be sending a letter tomorrow afternoon with an update on our learning model for the days ahead.** When I began this letter we had 5 confirmed student cases and as we await test results I am worried that this number will continue to grow. I cannot stress enough the importance of the community's need to follow all social distancing guidelines and adhere to state restrictions; we are in this together and cannot do this without your help and support.

As we plan for the upcoming holidays, I am asking all students and families to be sure to read Superintendent Jette's reminders about traveling.

We are about to embark upon the holiday season, which is typically a social time for many of us. In addition, many of our students' siblings will be returning home from colleges out of state. Per MA DPH guidelines, these college students will need to quarantine until they receive a negative COVID test. I am also asking each of you to be mindful of your own social gatherings and the need to adhere to the health and safety guidelines set by the CDC and MA DPH. Small gatherings of family and friends have repeatedly been shown to be super spreader events.

If you are traveling, please follow Massachusetts Travel orders linked here and adhere to MPS Policy that all students and staff must provide a negative COVID 19 test taken upon 72 hours of arrival back in Massachusetts or quarantine for 14 days after travel prior to returning to in person learning.

These reminders for a safe and healthy Thanksgiving during COVID from MA DPH are important to read through. Also, this Thanksgiving Poster from Mass.gov is available in several languages.

I have always been inspired by the kindness & generosity of the MPS community. Please keep those who are less fortunate in your thoughts as we prepare for the holidays and if you know of any families who may need any assistance please let us know.

While some topics in this newsletter will serve as weekly reminders for the health and safety of our entire MHS community there are always new topics so please be sure to read this newsletter in its entirety.

Student Pictures

If your student took school pictures and you'd like to make a purchase, please contact Hayward Photography

info@haywardphotography.com or 617-698-1840. A date for Picture Retakes is still TBD. We will communicate a retake day as soon as we have one confirmed.

Family Resources

Join Caroline Mannion, Inclusion Specialist/BCBA for Pierce and MHS, for a session focused on how parents and guardians can support their middle and high school age children as they navigate through their Hybrid/Remote learning schedule. This evening will focus on identifying strategies on how parents can set up their home working environment to support at home learning, how to support your child with planning and organizing their workload, behavioral strategies to increase independence with remote learning, and strategies to monitor your child's social and emotional well being. Join us online on Tuesday, November 17th, at 6:30 pm for this valuable session. [Please click here to receive a link to attend a few days before the event.](#)

Class Attendance

While we do not currently require students to have their cameras on in class, I am strongly encouraging all students to keep their cameras on during live sessions to ensure appropriate engagement. With new features in Google like Background Blur and the ability to select a new background, leaving your camera on has never been easier. It will help with classroom engagement and hopefully provide more interaction with other students and MHS staff.

I cannot stress enough that students are expected to be present and engaged in all of their classes. Attendance is taken for all in person and remote classes. Students are expected to log into class on time and be present for the entire class. Students who are late to class or not showing up will be marked late or cutting the class and consequences will be following. As a reminder the MHS schedules are [here](#).

I would also like to ask MHS families to continue to help ensure that our students are finding success at Milton High School. While we know that you may be receiving multiple emails each day from teachers, we ask parents/guardians to remind your students to read these messages, attend office hours regularly, and seek out help from school staff when needed. We ask students & parents/guardians to continue to check Plus Portals, and if you notice work is missing, make the effort to complete it and be in communication with the appropriate teachers. With only two weeks left in the first marking term we want to make sure that all of our students are engaged, finding success and accessing support when needed. All term dates and updates for school can be found on our [school calendar](#).

Plus Portals

As a reminder, we do not issue progress reports but students and families can refer to Plus Portals for updates on grades at any time. Teachers will post grades for each graded assignment within two weeks of its being submitted or administered in class, and will communicate if some longer-term assignments may take longer to post. Please keep in mind that grades are not final until the end of the term when report cards are posted.

MHS Boosters

Milton High Boosters has opened an online pop up store open now until November 23rd. Youth and adults sizes, fun gifts to show your Milton pride. Deadlines are firm so that gear can be picked up prior to the holidays. Merchandise will change next time so grab it while you can. Thank you for your support of our student athletes! [MHS Boosters Store](#)

MHS PTO-LAST CALL

Please support MHS and all of our schools by shopping at the Fruit Center Marketplace. Starting Monday, November 9th through Sunday, November 15th the Fruit Center Marketplace will be donating 20% of your total purchase back to MHS! Present your [voucher](#) when you make purchases at the Fruit Center Marketplace! Shop as often as you'd like during that week and [share the vouchers](#) with family and friends!!

The Apple Project -- Final Call!

Thank you to everyone who has purchased a sign so far to support our amazing teachers and MPS staff! We have about 200 left to sell! All six schools across the district have joined together to sell these signs in the hope that we will all hang them on our doors, stoops, fences, etc....to show our solidarity as a community during this unprecedented year and rally behind our schools - we will all get through this together!

Please consider purchasing a sign:

PSATs

Juniors! Just a reminder that November 20th is the last day to register for the January PSATs. All information can be found [here](#).

AP Exams

Information about payment for AP Exams will be coming out in the coming weeks. Each AP Exam will cost \$40 for the 2020-2021 school year.

Health PreScreen Form

All families have been asked to complete the [Health PreScreen Form](#). As of today there are still over 400 families who have not completed this for a MHS student. Again, if you have not completed this form please take some time this weekend to do so.

Clubs & Activities

I will continue to post information on our clubs and activities as I am hoping all students are able to find something at MHS that they can be involved in. Please see the virtual [Clubs & Activities Fair](#) for more information about clubs. Now that clubs are up and running, information about user fee payments will be coming out in the coming weeks. Most clubs require a \$25 user fee, with an individual cap of \$50 for participation in any number of clubs.

Athletics

Please see below from MHS Athletic Director Ryan Madden.

As we finish our fall season this week, I would like to thank all coaches, student-athletes, and parents/guardians for their help in making this season happen. Without total buy-in and with everyone following social distancing and mask-wearing protocols, we would not have been able to complete this season.

Winter season will start no sooner than Monday, December 7th. Information will be released in the coming weeks, and registration will open as soon as possible. Once information becomes available, it will be communicated to families. As always, parents/guardians are encouraged [to complete the Feedback Survey for Fall Sports found here](#).

Food Services

Just a reminder that **any** student at MHS can pick up a FREE lunch or breakfast [without even signing up](#). Meals are FREE for the entire school year and Details are [here](#). If you think your family may qualify for free or reduced lunch please complete [this application](#).

Health Check Before School

To ensure the safety of all in our community, it is imperative that students who are feeling ill and/or exhibiting symptoms stay home from school. Please refer to the [Pre-Screening Checklist](#) prior to sending students to school.

Parents/guardians, please call the Main Office at 617-696-4470 to document the absence, and if you/your student has any of the symptoms listed on the daily health screen checklist, please reach out to MHS Nurse Kim Coughlin

(kacoughlin@miltonps.org) who will advise next steps, return to school guidelines and facilitate notifying teachers if in person learning is missed.

Face Coverings/Masks

Our students and staff have done a phenomenal job of wearing appropriate face coverings during school. We wish to remind our families and students that mask wearing outside of school is important as well! When walking to school in a group, leaving school in a group, carpooling in a group, waiting for a ride, or waiting for the doors to open in the morning, masks must be worn!

Mask wearing and physically distancing from others, in combination with excellent hand hygiene, is the most effective way to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Thank you for your continued efforts to protect the wellbeing of *our entire school community!*

Principal's Corner

Do you think you missed a newsletter? Take a look at the [Principal's Corner](#). You can find this tab on our MHS homepage.

Take care & have a nice weekend.

Sincerely,

Karen J. Cahill
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