

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 sailing 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 02136 617-696-4470

Benjamin J. Kelly
Vice Principal, ext. 5504

Brian E. Mackinaw
Vice Principal, ext. 5507

November 20, 2020

Good afternoon MHS Students and Families,

As I stated in last week's newsletter I am asking all students and families to be sure to read the update on traveling for the holidays:

As Milton residents plan for the Thanksgiving holiday, we offer the following considerations to help keep our friends, families, and community safe during COVID-19. 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.

During the week of Thanksgiving, we will celebrate MPS Spirit Week. We are asking all in MPS to show their school pride on Tuesday, November 24, by wearing red and white and their school gear, both at home and in school. [If you would like to share your message of gratitude – about your family, school, community, friends – with the MPS community, Superintendent Jette invites you to do it here.](#) Notes, short videos, or pictures are all very welcome. Next week, we will share some of the messages, pictures, and videos of gratitude that we receive.

As we go into Thanksgiving week, I want to express my gratitude to the MHS staff, students and community for your support and encouragement over the past few months. I am grateful for an amazing staff who are working extremely hard to provide the best education for all students at MHS while making sure students are engaged and connected with the MHS community. I am also grateful for our students who continue to show up every day despite obstacles and limitations in their own lives surrounding this global pandemic. I am proud to be Principal of such an amazing school community.

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.

November 13 - 20th is Transgender Awareness Week - a week dedicated to illuminating both the progress and unfinished work in the fight for transgender and non-binary equality. The week culminates in Transgender Day of Remembrance,

held every year on Nov. 20 - a time to remember the transgender and gender non-conforming people who have been lost to fatal violence over the course of the previous year. During this week especially, we honor transgender people and their allies who take action to bring attention to the community by educating the public about who transgender people are, sharing stories and experiences, and advancing advocacy around the issues of prejudice, discrimination, and violence that affect the transgender community." (<https://www.glaad.org/transweek> and <https://www.glaad.org/transweek>.) More resources can be found on our [Guidance Webpage](#)

First Marking Term

First marking term ends on Tuesday, December 1st. While we are asking teachers not to assign additional work for the Thanksgiving Recess, we do encourage students to use the time to complete work that they may owe prior to the term ending on December 1st. Teachers may assign work for Cycle 12 which starts on Monday, November 23rd and ends on Tuesday, December 1st but there should be no expectation that all of the work will be done over break.

MHS PTO

All 6 schools will be collecting gift cards to help Milton families in need over the holidays. We are now collecting \$25 Target Gift cards and they can be dropped off in the locked dropbox at the MHS entrance between now and December 3rd. If you are able, please consider donating a gift card to brighten up another Milton Family's holiday. Thank you!!

MHS Virtual Pep Rally

We are hoping all MHS students can join in our annual Pep Rally on Tuesday, November 24th at 2pm. This year it is all online and all details can be found [HERE](#). Looking forward to celebrating all the great things our MHS community has accomplished and have some fun!

If your pet wants to join in on the day there is [something planned](#) for them too!

AP Payments due Friday, January 15th

Taking the Advanced Placement exams is an important part of all AP courses; therefore Milton High School requires that all students currently enrolled in AP Courses take AP exams. AP Exams will take place this year Monday, May 3rd through Friday, May 14th, 2021.

Online Exam Payment is open now and will end on Friday, January 15th. In order to pay, students must know their Student ID #. We know that parents may desire to pay for their students' exams but we strongly recommend that parents and students are both present to ensure that the correct exams are paid for. Using the drop down menu please select all AP exams you are enrolled in and will be taking in May, and enter the number of exams in the quantity field.

This year, Milton High is pleased to be able to offer AP Exams at \$40/exam (\$20/exam if qualified for Free/Reduced Lunch), with the district paying the remaining cost. It is important that all students/families pay their AP Exam fees on time to ensure timely delivery and processing of all AP Exams. Students requiring financial assistance should contact Mr. Kelly, bkelly@miltonps.org, in the MHS Main Office.

The [MPS Online Payment Center](#) (UniBank) can be found on the www.miltonps.org website.

User Fees for Clubs & Activities

Most MHS clubs and activities require a \$25 per year user fee, with a per-student-cap of \$50. Now that our clubs and activities are underway, it is time to remind families to pay this user fee to ensure our clubs and activities can continue to operate!

Using the [MPS Online Payment Center](#) on the www.miltonps.org website, please select payment of \$25 for one club or \$50 for two or more clubs in the first drop down menu. Fill in the required information, and select all clubs in which the student participates from the drop down menus below.

Please note that if a club is not listed in the drop down menu, then it has been designated as a “No Fee” club based on the goals of the club. Students who have qualified for Free/Reduced Lunch are not required to pay club fees.

Thank you for your support of MHS Clubs & Activities!

Technology

Don't forget to check out our [Family Technology Support page](#) for helpful tips on technology issues. Bookmark this page for up to date information!

Family Resources

Caroline Mannion, Inclusion Specialist/BCBA for Pierce and MHS, recently offered 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. Thank you to Ms. Mannion for offering this resource and thank you to all who attended. [You can view Ms. Mannion's powerpoint presentation here.](#)

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.

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](#).

MHS Boosters-Last call!

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](#)

PSATs-LAST CALL!

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

Health PreScreen Form

All families have been asked to complete the [Health PreScreen Form](#). As of today there are still over **300** 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.

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

Principal

kcahill@miltonps.org

617-696-4470 x5503