

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 02186 617-696-4470

Benjamin J. Kelly
Vice Principal, ext. 5504

Brian E. Mackinaw
Vice Principal, ext. 5507

December 18, 2020

Good afternoon MHS Students and Families,

I hope everyone has safely weathered our first winter storm of the year! Helping our neighbors clear the snow, running an errand for those who are housebound and just checking in on your neighbors to see that they are doing ok are all things that make the difference to so many people. Have you reached out to a neighbor lately?

The Milton High School Music Department is proud to present this [Virtual December Cabaret](#). Settle in for an amazing half-hour of music performed by MHS student musicians. You'll hear singers, pianists, percussionists, flutists, guitarists, violinists and brass players, all sharing their music from their homes to yours.

Flu Vaccines

The Town of Milton will hold the final Milton Flu Clinic tomorrow! [All details are here](#). Per the Commonwealth of Massachusetts guidelines, all students will be expected to have received a flu vaccine by December 31, 2020, for the 2020-2021 influenza season, unless either a medical or religious exemption is provided. Elementary and secondary students in districts and schools that are using a remote education model are not exempt. Please email documentation of your child's flu vaccination to your child's school nurse.

COVID Updates

Please be sure to have read Superintendent Jette's [weekly newsletter](#) which contains updated information for COVID close contact guidelines. All current policies can be found on the [COVID-19 page on the MPS website](#). This will always be the place to find the [most up to date information](#) about the Milton Public Schools COVID-19 policies.

There are several upcoming local testing options:

- **Manet Community Health Center is hosting another day of COVID-19 testing at Milton High School on Saturday, December 19, 2020.** [All details on the testing can be found here](#), and the [preregistration document can be found at this link](#).
- The Town of Milton will be offering **free** drive through COVID tests at the Milton DPW Yard (629 Randolph Ave) on **Sundays on December 13, 20, 27** from 10 am to 3 pm. This testing is for Milton residents or people who work in Milton only. Please visit the [Town of Milton website](#) for more information.

Covid-Related Absences & Live Streaming

If your child needs to be home because he/she is awaiting testing or has been a close contact of someone who has tested positive, you should inform Nurse Coughlin ASAP via phone at 617-696-4470 x 5537 or via email at kacoughlin@miltonps.org. Your child's teachers will be notified of the absences and the need to live stream classes. Please note that this information is shared with teachers first thing in the morning, so if you inform us of your child's need to quarantine during the school day, you may not be set up to live stream until the following day. **Students cannot ask teachers to attend remotely for covid or non-covid related absences; all requests are to be made by parents/guardians.**

Milton Public Library

In the "Library of Things" Collection at the Milton Public Library they have chromebooks with hotspots. More details can be found [here](#).

December is National Impaired Driving Prevention Month

In 2019, the Youth Risk Behavior Survey taken by all Milton High School students found that 15% of high school students reported being in a car with a driver high on marijuana in the past month, which is a very concerning statistic and is even higher than the national average. According to studies, marijuana can slow your reaction time, impair judgment of distance, and decrease coordination, which are essential when you are behind the wheel of a vehicle. In recent years, drug-impaired driving has become a major highway safety issue. Fewer MHS students (9%) reported driving with someone who had been drinking in the past month, but that number is still too high given the dangers of driving drunk. [All youth need to be educated about the dangers of impaired driving.](#)

Underage drinking is involved in 25% of teen car crashes. Marijuana users are 25% more likely to be involved in a crash than drivers with no evidence of marijuana use. Thousands of deaths each year are attributed to impaired driving. These deaths are easily preventable.

Even before kids start to drive, parents and guardians should talk with them about the dangers of drunk and drug-impaired driving, and continue these conversations even as they get older. For more information about how to talk to your children about alcohol and other drugs, visit www.underagedrinking.samhsa.gov

Class of 2024 Reminder

As a way to bring the class together please join us in school and online for our "Ugly Holiday Sweater Days". On Monday and Tuesday of next week, wear your best ugly sweater and send in a picture to Mr. Pike via the google meeting link. Over the holiday break the pictures will be organized into a slide show. Be creative, have fun and remember to follow all social distance guidelines if you are taking pictures together. Join us as we celebrate the holidays with the class of 2024!! Any questions can be sent to Mr. Pike via email at spike@miltonps.org.

Take care & have a nice weekend.

Sincerely,

Karen J. Cahill
Principal
kcahill@miltonps.org
617-696-4470 x5503

Reminders from Past Newsletters

First Term Report Cards

Report Cards were added to your/your student's E-Locker in PlusPortals on Tuesday, December 8th. Some students have received grade changes or have resolved Incomplete grades in the days since our original posting, so please be sure to visit PlusPortals to download the most up-to-date Report Card. Any questions regarding a grade in a particular class should first be directed to the teacher.

To access your/your student's Report Card on PlusPortals:

STUDENTS: Log in to your portal and click on the E-LOCKER located in the red menu bar at the top of the portal page. Then click E-Portfolio. You will find a PDF of your report card dated 12/8/2020 (or after if a change/correction has been made). Click on the BLUE download button and your report card will open.

PARENTS/GUARDIANS: Log in to your portal and select your student. Click on the E-LOCKER located in the red menu bar at the top of the portal page. Then click E-Portfolio. You will find a PDF of your student's report card dated 12/8/2020 (or after if a change/correction has been made). Click on the BLUE download button and your report card will open.

Intellispark

We are excited to announce that next week all of our Milton High School students will be participating in a new program called Intellispark. This online platform will provide us with a personalized path for success for each student by identifying key SEL and well-being indicators. Students will complete surveys in 4 different areas: Student Engagement, Connection and Belonging; Social Emotional Well-being; Student Relationships and Networks; and "Get to Know Me". This individualized data will be critical in developing support plans for each student as well as providing us with school wide data on the overall well-being of our students. We plan to administer the first of these surveys during Advisory Period on Tuesday, December 15th.

Guidance Department Update-Post High School Planning Presentations

Welcome to the December 2020 version of the Milton High Guidance Department's College Information Night. This event is traditionally a series of mini-workshops held at the high school on a variety of topics pertaining to post-high school planning. Since a proper in-person version is not currently possible, we are presenting this information to Milton High families in slideshow/powerpoint-style sessions, which you will find links to below. Please take some time in the next few weeks to digest these presentations. They cover a variety of topics to consider when planning for life after high school, including many important components of college admissions, cost, Naviance, and more! The Milton High Guidance Department, along with all our staff members, are committed to fostering positive outcomes for our students that take into account their diverse backgrounds, skill sets, and aspirations, while equipping them to reach their potential and contribute to the global community. While the world is filled with much uncertainty, there is also much to be hopeful for. Thank you to all the experts who created and contributed to these presentations! - Scott Devlin

[MASSASOIT COMMUNITY COLLEGE ADMISSIONS OVERVIEW](#) - Christopher Horn, Associate Director of Admissions, Massasoit Community College

[PARENT AND STUDENT GUIDE TO COLLEGE ADMISSIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES](#) - Bridget Canty, MHS Special Educator

[POST-SECONDARY PLANNING FOR STUDENTS WITH IEPs AND 504's](#) - Gabriella Diller, MHS Team Chair

[HISTORICAL BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES OVERVIEW](#) - Stephanie Gray, MHS Guidance Department

[NCAA ATHLETICS](#) - Ryan Madden, MHS Athletic Director

[FINANCING HIGHER EDUCATION](#) - Todd Weaver, Senior Vice President, Strategies for College, Inc.

[NAVIANCE OVERVIEW](#) - Scott Devlin, Lead Counselor, MHS Guidance Department

[COLLEGE ADMISSIONS TESTING](#) - Drew Heilpern, Summit Educational Group, Inc.

[MILTON COLLEGE ADMISSIONS PRESENTATION](#) - Allison Sherlock, Regional Associate Director of Admission, Saint Michael's College

Seniors PLEASE Read!

Two Important Updates from Guidance:

- First quarter grades have been posted. By default, we will be sending your first quarter grades along to any college that you have already applied to in the next couple of days, UNLESS YOU TELL US NOT TO.

If you do not want your first quarter grades sent to the colleges you have applied to, simply email me at sdevlin@miltonps.org and we will hold off. If you are unsure about what to do, contact your counselor!

- Senior Scholarships: Mr. Devlin and Ms. Beliveau will be co-chairing the Senior Scholarship Committee this year. Please pay attention to emails from Mr. Devlin and Ms. Beliveau about scholarship opportunities. More information can be found on your Naviance account by following these simple instructions:

Log into your Naviance account, go to Colleges, Scholarships and Money, then Scholarship List.

All relevant information pertaining to each scholarship will be stored here, including deadlines, requirements, applications, and, when applicable, \$\$ amount.

There are currently four posted - the Stanley Z. Koplik Certificate of Mastery Award (pertaining to MCAS scores/state colleges and universities), the Henry David Thoreau Scholarship, the Ron Brown Scholar Program, and the Tuskegee Airmen Scholarship. Take a look to see if they apply to you, and more updates to come in the new year!

Milton Foundation for Education

The Milton Foundation for Education has been funding initiatives for the Milton Public Schools for decades. This year, we have found ourselves unable to fundraise in our traditional way, yet the need for our schools and student communities has never been greater. The MFE has already answered this call by funding initiatives this school year to help with both in-person and remote learning in this unique year. If your student uses Kami or math and STEM manipulatives at home, they were funded by the MFE Covid grants this fall. [Please consider making a donation to the MFE at this link to continue this critical work this year, as this will likely be our only fundraiser.](#)

Class Attendance & Cameras

While we do not currently require students to have their cameras on in class. We ask that all students keep their cameras on whenever possible. This benefits your teachers and your learning experience. 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. Please check in with your child to see if their camera is on during class, if it isn't, ask why. While we do understand that some students

may be uncomfortable with their camera on, most are not and it does help with engagement, helps facilitate classroom discussions and interactions with their peers.

School-based Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee Charter

Milton Public Schools (MPS) is committed to ensuring educational success and equity for all students. Therefore, MPS is committed to the formation and support of school-based Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committees. Each of Milton's public schools will form and maintain a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee that is charged with promoting high academic achievement, equity, and respect, and fostering an affirming, inclusive, and collaborative atmosphere for all students, families, and staff. If you are a MHS student, parent or guardian and would like to be part of Milton High School's DEI committee please email me at kcahill@Miltonps.org.

Headphones for all MHS students

All MHS students were provided with a set of headphones at the start of the school year. Please continue to use your headphones for all remote learning sessions. Further, please take care of your headphones, chromebooks and other school items. Our supply of extra sets is dwindling as the year progresses, so please do your part to maintain this equipment!

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!

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.