MULLICA TOWNSHIP MIDDLE SCHOOL

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL

Home of the Coyotes **Mrs. Maris Lynn, Principal** ***#WeAreMullica***

September 2, 2020

Dear Students and Families,

Welcome to the 2020-21 school year. I hope that you have had a great summer and are looking forward to the new school year. The Mullica Township School District Restart Team was hard at work for the past several months planning a safe and successful return to learning for all of our students. Whether you have decided to have your child participate in In-Person learning in our school building, or if All-Virtual learning from your home was the choice for you, we are here to support you and your child every step of the way. We realize that everyone is feeling a little apprehensive about the start of this school year and that students aren't sure what to expect. The most important thing to remember is that the safety and wellbeing of your child is our first priority. In partnership with you, the parents, we will make the best of this unusual school year. Many of the topics that students and parents want to know about have been explained in this letter. Please read the information carefully and review it with your child. Enclosed with this letter you will find several very important documents which have been explained on the following pages.

Respectfully,

Maris Lynn
Principal

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Student “Bell Schedule”

The enclosed student schedule lists the names and times for each class. The schedule shows each class meeting Monday through Friday. Students are expected to attend class during the specified time either in-person or virtually. Attendance will be recorded.

Important points regarding the schedule:

- Homeroom- Daily attendance will be taken during homeroom, both in-person and virtually
- Recess Wellness Breaks
    - At school, students will go outside (weather permitting) to have a mask break during this time. This is also when a snack can be eaten.
    - At home, students should step away from their Chromebook/ schoolwork and engage in physical activity.
- Lunch/Recess- Students will eat lunch and have lunch recess at home
- Afternoon Schedule
    - The area in gray(not scheduled) is to be used for independent work, and to meet with teachers for additional assistance.
- Special Area Classes
    - Students will participate in one special area class on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday
    - These classes are 30 minutes in duration
    - Students will participate in Health/ Physical education twice a week all year
    - Students will participate in Art and Music or Spanish and Financial Literacy for half of each trimester. The enclosed schedule shows what students will have for the first half of Trimester 1, the student will have the other 2 specials for the second half of the Trimester. This pattern will repeat for each trimester.

Weekly Student Schedule

The enclosed weekly schedule shows what each student will do on each day of the week. During the first week of school, teachers will demonstrate to students how to use Google Classroom and GoGuardian Chat to communicate during the school day.

School Calendars

Enclosed you will find two calendars. The updated calendar for the school year and the Cohort Calendar for Trimester One. The Cohort Calendar shows the days students will meet either in-person at the school building, or “Live” with their teachers over the internet on their “Cohort Days”.

Wellness Wednesdays

To facilitate activities aimed toward improving the health and wellbeing of our school community, Wednesdays have been designated as “Wellness Wednesdays.” On Wednesday, all students will learn virtually and do not have a class scheduled for the afternoon. On Wednesdays the school will participate in wellness themed activities in the afternoon. Additional details about “Wellness Wednesday” will be forthcoming.

Daily Screening Forms

In person learners will have a packet of “COVID-19 Daily Screening for Students/Staff” forms included in this mailing. All virtual students do not need this form. This form **MUST** be completed daily and **MUST** accompany each student when they arrive at school. Students will be required to present this form when they exit the bus, or parent vehicle every day. Students without a completed form **WILL NOT** be permitted to enter a classroom. It is imperative that all parents screen their children prior to sending them to school. This includes taking their temperature and monitoring for the symptoms listed on the form. The instructions on the form must be followed. If you have questions please contact the health office for clarification.

In-Person Learning Expectations

Returning to learning with in-person instruction will be different this school year. Please review the expectations below to be prepared for in-person learning.

- **Students must be screened for symptoms before coming to school.** Students must bring a completed COVID-19 Daily Screening for Students/Staff to school daily.
- **Students must wear a mask on the schoolbus.** Students must comply with all directives from the bus driver.
- **Students must wear a mask at all times.** Teachers will direct students when it is appropriate to remove their mask. For example: When outside and socially distanced during Recess Wellness Breaks. For the safety of students and staff, students who refuse to wear a mask will not be permitted to attend in-person learning. If there is a documented medical condition that precludes wearing a mask, please contact the Middle School Office prior to the first day of school. If a student's mask becomes soiled or damaged a replacement will be provided by the teacher. A supply of masks will be available in each classroom.
- **Students must follow social distancing guidelines.** Staff will be present in the hallways and classrooms to assist students and provide direction. Compliance is mandatory. For the safety of students and staff, students who refuse to comply with social distancing guidelines will not be permitted to participate in in-person learning.
- **Students may bring refillable water bottles to school.** The water fountains are turned off and can only be used to fill water bottles. Students will be permitted to lift their mask to drink water.
- **Students may bring a snack to school**. Snacks will be eaten during Recess Wellness Breaks. Students must bring their own snack. Students are expected to dispose of garbage responsibly.
- **Students will use the new bathroom by the Middle School Office.** Only one student will be permitted in the bathroom at a time.
- **Students should bring their belongings in a sturdy book bag.** This bag will hold all of their belongings during the day and the belongings that will go home daily. Students will not use lockers or closets.
- **Students must bring their fully charged Chromebook to school each day**.
- **Students are expected to follow the student code of conduct at all times.**
- **Students will remain in their homeroom for all classes.**
- **Students must also follow the Virtual Learning Expectations.**

All-Virtual Learning Expectations

- **Students will attend class virtually every school day.**
- **Students are expected to be "virtually" present in their classes** during the time specified in their schedule. This means- logged into the Chromebook and in the correct Google Classroom(Or other platform specified by the teacher). Attendance will be taken.
- **Students will learn "Live" on their scheduled cohort days.** This means that the subject area teacher will be teaching live with that class during that time. This may be via video streaming, or through other structured learning activities.
- **Students are expected to follow the student code of conduct at all times.**
- **Students must also follow the Virtual Learning Expectations.**

Virtual Learning Expectations(All Students)

Returning to learning with virtual instruction will be a part of all students' routines this school year. Please review the expectations below to be prepared for virtual learning.

- Students will follow the same schedule for core classes every day.
- Students will complete their work, adhere to due dates, and classroom expectations for academic integrity.
- Students will be monitored using GoGuardian software that allows teachers to view the student's Chromebook screens remotely. Students may use GoGuardian chat to ask questions and receive assistance during virtual learning on their "non-cohort" days.
- Content area teachers will be available in the afternoons to meet with students for additional help.
- Students must participate in their special area class according to the schedule.

First Day of School

The first day of school is always exciting. As with every year, students want to know what will be expected of them and what to expect on their first day of school.

First Day Expectations(All Students)

- Get a good night's sleep, getting back on a schedule will be a challenge for everyone
- Eat a healthy breakfast before school
- Arrive on time- to your bus stop, to school, or logging into your Chromebook
- Bring a positive attitude and a willingness to try something new

First Day of School (In-Person)

On the first day of school, students can expect to be greeted at their bus or in the parent drop off loops by staff members wearing masks. Students will be asked to hand their completed COVID-19 Daily Screening form to a staff member before entering the building. Students will report directly to their homeroom. Staff members will be in the hallways to direct students and assist in maintaining social distancing. When arriving in the classroom, teachers will direct students to their seats. This year, the teachers will change classes and the students will remain in the same room.

First Day of School (Cohort B and All-Virtual Students)

On the first day of school, students will log into their Chromebook at 8:30 for homeroom. The Google Classroom code will be emailed to each family on or before Friday, September 11th. Students will receive the other classroom codes they need in their homeroom classroom. For the first day of school, all students need to do is log onto their Homeroom class and they will be directed from there.