

**Friday Update  
September 3, 2021**

**Health Update**

For the week ending September 3, 2021, we had zero (0) confirmed cases of COVID-19. Our students and staff have done a marvelous job with washing their hands, maintaining a social distance, and wearing their masks. We know how difficult wearing masks are at MCMS since it is mostly not air-conditioned. We cannot stress enough how important it is to keep washing hands as this not only prevents the spread of COVID-19, but it also is a great deterrent for all those other pesky germs like strep, Noro-virus, Influenza A, and the good old fashion common cold. We will continue to engage in robust cleaning every day in our classrooms and on common areas like doorknobs, water fountains, and lockers.

**Transportation Update**

We are still looking at our overall routes and trying to make some changes to reduce the times students are on a bus. We are looking to create two additional country routes that would originate from Grant/MCMS to help with this. Over the next week, we will be notifying parents who are impacted by this change. I cannot thank the parents enough for the patience in helping us work through the long bus rides and late dismissals. We truly are being as creative as possible to remedy these shortcomings. As I shared last week, we need van and bus drivers. If interested, call Maureen Matzer at 815-568-8323. We offer paid training with starting pay at \$19.02/hour. This is a great job that works well with the school calendar.

**Academic Night**

Thank you to the parents who attended MCMS Academic Night on Tuesday, August 31, 2021. We had a nice crowd of parents who came and experienced their child's schedule in an abbreviated form. Please see below for the upcoming Academic Nights:

Please note, Academic Night is for parents/guardians ONLY and masks must be worn. If you do not have a mask, we have masks available at both schools at no cost. No childcare will be provided during Academic Night, so please make alternative arrangements.

Grant	Wednesday, September 8, 2021	6:30 pm – 8:00 pm	
Locust	Thursday, September 9, 2021	6:00 pm – 6:45 pm	1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade
		6:45 pm – 7:30 pm	K and Pre-K
		7:30 pm – 8:15 pm	3 <sup>rd</sup> grade

**SHIELD Testing**

I am pleased to share that we anticipate beginning our SHIELD testing on Thursday, September 16, 2021. We have uploaded the first roster based on the consent forms that we received as of Monday, August 31, 2021. Parents can OPT-IN to SHIELD at any time during the school year, but note that there is a 7-10 day delay in adding new students. As this is something very new to the District, I am sure there will be a few stumbles along the way.

As this is a long holiday weekend, I hope your families will have some quality time to get outside and enjoy the weather.

As always, thank you for entrusting us with your children. We feel privileged to be a part of their education.

*Dr. Lea Damisch*  
Superintendent of Schools