

Monmouth Academy – *Established in 1803*

<http://www.kidsrsu.org/o/ma>

Facebook – “Rick Maroon - Mustang Pride”

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August 19, 2019

Dear Parents and Guardians:

It is with great enthusiasm that I welcome you to the opening of what promises to be another exceptional school year at Monmouth Academy. It is with confidence that I assure you that your young adult will discover a caring and supportive team of educators who will work diligently with all learners to develop their foundational knowledge and skills and guide them through their high school journey so that each of them are prepared for their post-secondary aspirations.

This school year we welcome three new members to our faculty: Mrs. Morgan Huckey, Jobs for Maine Graduates (JMG) specialist; Mr. Timothy Libby, Spanish; and Mr. Charles Urquhart, Social Studies.

On behalf of the Monmouth Academy team, we look forward to working **in partnership with you** to provide the best education for your young adult. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me, or any member of our educational team, throughout the school year.

Sincerely,

Rick

Rick Amero
Principal

Here are important details regarding the upcoming school year:

* **Wednesday, August 28, First Day for 9th Grade Learners:** The purpose of this day is to provide our first year learners an opportunity to get acquainted with the faculty, staff, and administration. In addition, 9th grade learners will follow an abbreviated schedule, meet with their specific course teachers, participate in small group seminars, discover our co-curricular clubs and activities, meet and discuss MA with National Honor Society members and Student Government representatives, and enjoy team-building activities. We will provide light snacks and water during a morning break, and learners should bring their own lunch or money for a school lunch. Learners should dress comfortably for team-building activities.

* **Thursday, August 29, First Day for All Learners in Grades 9-12:** This will mark the 216th opening day for Monmouth Academy!

* **M.A. School Start & End Times (7:45 a.m. to 2:20 p.m.):** The warning bell to attend the first period class will ring each day at 7:42 a.m., and **learners must arrive to their first period by 7:45 a.m. in order to not be marked tardy.** Unless learners have arranged to meet with a staff member for academic assistance or attend a pre-scheduled class or club meeting, they should arrive to M.A. no earlier than 7:20 a.m. Breakfast items are available during the daily morning break at 8:45 a.m. (due to low demand, breakfast is not served at M.A. before school). The school day ends at 2:20 p.m.

* **Paperwork/Forms:** On the first day of school, your learner will bring home a great deal of information and forms. The majority of school information is sent electronically; therefore, please make sure your email and cell phone information is accurate.

It is **important** that all the forms are **filled out completely, updated, signed**, and returned to your son/daughter's homeroom teacher by Wednesday, September 4. If you think your son/daughter **may** qualify for no cost lunch, please return the **confidential** form or complete this form online (<http://www.kidsrsu.org/o/ma>).

* **RSU 2 Smart App:** Follow all M.A. and district news on your smart phone. The RSU 2 app is available in the Apple and Android app store, just search for RSU2. Visit <http://www.kidsrsu.org/o/ma> to view a short video to help you get started.

* **32nd Annual MOBY “My Own Back Yard” Experience, Monday, September 16 – Friday, September 20:** Learners will work towards meeting Learning Targets in science, English, social studies, and art during this unique applied learning weeklong program that will take place at Acadia National Park.

MOBY Parent and Student Meeting: Tuesday, September 10, 7 p.m., MA Cafeteria

* **United Way/Monmouth Academy 13th Annual Day of Caring, Friday September 20:** Learners in 10th, 11th, and 12th grade will partner with the United Way and the Monmouth community for our 13th Annual Day of Caring. If you know of any person or organization that could benefit from the service our learners could provide on that day, please contact Mrs. Pat Goff, pgoff@kidsrsu.org, or at 933-4416.

* **School-issued Laptops:** Learners will be issued a laptop once the following conditions are met: a.) learner has returned all required forms mentioned above (fully completed and signed), and b.) the learner does not have an outstanding debt for laptop repair from a previous school year and/or has created a payment plan.

* **Other Personal Technology:** Per school board policy, learners are not to use personal laptops, Ipads, Ipods, tablets, etc. at M.A. during school hours.

* **Student Cell Phones:** Learners are allowed to appropriately use their cell phones before & after school, during morning break, and during their designated lunch period. Because cell phones distract from the learning environment, during any scheduled academic time (classes, study halls, FLEX, and advising period), learners must have their phone silenced (or turned off) and placed in their backpack. Learners are not permitted to video or take photos of other learners or staff during school hours.

* **Dismissal from School:** Learners **will not be dismissed** (nor permitted to leave school grounds) unless their parent/guardian has provided a written note **and** the dismissal has been verified by the main office staff. The student must bring this note to Mrs. Goff (M.A. Administrative Assistant) before the start of the school day. In cases of personal illness, the school nurse will contact the parent/guardian. Parents can come to M.A. and sign their son/daughter out of school for an excusable absence. Again, **learners will not be dismissed via a parent/guardian phone call nor can they ever sign themselves out.**

* **Daily Attendance:** It is important that your young adult attends school on a regular basis. The State of Maine recognizes the following as **excusable absences** (with proper documentation): a.) personal illness; b.) an appointment with a health care professional that must be made during the regular school day; c.) observance of a recognized religious holiday when the observance is required during the regular school day; d.) a family emergency; e.) a planned absence for a personal or educational purpose that has been pre-approved by school administration; f.) an education disruption resulting from a significant personal situation.

For an excused absence, we ask that you please: a.) call the school to report your son/daughter's absence (before 8 a.m. on the morning of the absence), or b.) submit written documentation to the main office immediately upon your child's return to school. Thank you for your assistance with this.

* **Tardiness to School:** We expect learners to arrive to school on time. Upon a learner's fourth unexcused tardy (per semester), the learner will receive a consequence of a 30-minute detention each time he/she is tardy for the remainder of the particular semester. Please note: learners must arrive by 7:45 a.m. in order to participate in co-curricular activities and athletics scheduled for that day.

* **Coffee Chat – Friday, September 13, 8-8:45 a.m.:** Sarah. Knowlton, M.A. College & Career Coordinator, and I welcome parents to stop by for our first informal gathering of the school year to discuss what's happening at Monmouth Academy and answer any questions you may have.