

MADISON JUNIOR SCHOOL

160 Main Street
Madison, New Jersey 07940
973-593-3149



Brooke Phillips, *Acting Principal*
Pete Bovee, *Acting Assistant Principal*

August 24, 2020

Dear MJS Families,

It's hard to believe that school begins in just two weeks. In preparation for the first day of school, I would like to share relevant information about the upcoming school year and highlight noteworthy staffing changes and details about our unique school year schedule. Accompanying this letter is an outline of the summer packet that we ask parents to review and complete for each child on Genesis before the first day of school.

Opening Week

We start the school year off on Tuesday, September 8, with our gold cohort in person and all other learners at home. Wednesday will be our maroon cohort in school with all other learners at home. As a reminder, here is a quick link to our [Cohort Rotation Calendar](#). Here is a quick link to our [Bell Schedule](#), including periods 1-6 before lunch and periods 7-9 after lunch. All students will follow this bell schedule regardless of being in-person or remote.

Summer Packet

The summer packet noted at the end of this letter lists a great deal of information about the upcoming school year and the necessary forms that must be completed. We have categorized information according to its relevance, with mandatory items parents need to complete via Genesis listed upfront. We recognize that this can be a cumbersome process and appreciate the time you take to complete everything requested of you. Please remember that if you have more than one child attending MJS, you will need to complete the applicable forms for each child.

The Genesis Parent Portal will be available to fill out your forms starting on August 24. You will also be able to note your child's cohort color. **Please note - [MJS student schedules will be available in Genesis on Thursday, August 27.](#)** If there are any errors or if you have any concerns, please feel free to email your guidance counselor, who will return on August 31. The guidance counselor is identified on your child's schedule. Please contact either Libby Marotta at marottal@madisonnjps.org or Kathy Siso at sisok@madisonnjps.org.

New Faculty

It is with great enthusiasm that I introduce new members who will join our talented staff. We are invested in hiring the best educators and support staff to work with our students, and I am confident that these individuals will be excellent additions. Please join me in welcoming:

- Mrs. Diana Danitz, World Language Mandarin, replacing ChiaChi Chang
- Mr. Silver Laur, 7th-grade social studies, replacing Erik Lih
- Mrs. Nicole Martino, ESL, leave replacement for Jessica Blier through February 2021
- Miss Valerie Smith, CST LDTC, replacing Peggy Callahan

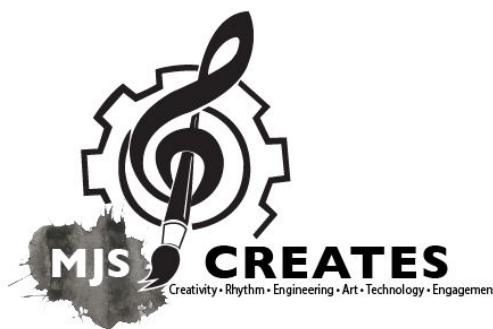
Also for your reference is our teaching teams for the 2020-2021 school year:

	Math	English	Social Studies	Science
6th Grade Team A	Danielle Dalessio	Elizabeth Rosica	Steve Finkelstein*	Kelley DeRosa
6th Grade Team B	Stefania Lambusta	Michelle Brennan*	Amanda Tobia	Patrice Donnelly
7th Grade Team A	Amanda McPeek*	Paige Henry	Richard Newbery	Ali Spangler
7th Grade Team B	Anna Hatzimanuel	Lisa Toto*	Silver Laur	Barbara Zabel
8th Grade Team A	TBD	Danielle Mack*	Matthew Millichap	Monica Brady
8th Grade Team B	James Boverly	Caitlin Young*	Katherine Ferris	Zachary Kovach

* indicates team leader

Cycle Classes 2020-2021

With the shortened schedule and the focus being placed on core subjects, we have decided to make some exciting adjustments to our cycle classes for grades 6, 7, and 8. Your child's AB cycle period during the hybrid school day will alternate between PE and this new cycle class that integrates STEM, art, and music.



Real-world circumstances sometimes prompt outstanding learning opportunities! Our choice cycle program, MJS C.R.E.A.T.E.S, is an innovative & integrated approach to learning that will encourage students to think more broadly. We intend to blend the worlds of art, music & technology while challenging students to think critically and explore the most engaging content to them. Goal-oriented learning from each content area will get students researching, predicting, creating, or performing. We aim to promote meaningful collaboration and empower students with choices.

A Note From MJSAO - Madison Junior School Athletics Organization

Due to unprecedented times, MJS Sports will NOT be having a fall competitive season. Many middle schools in Morris County, as well as college programs, are not participating in fall sports this year due to Covid-19. However, the MJSAO is working on possible alternative activities that would work in conjunction with school district plans.

As we finalize details, please make sure your child receives a Sports Physical from their physician, and FULLY completes the attached paperwork. All of this paperwork should be submitted to Nurse Skordinsky as soon as possible. All Sports Physicals are accepted for a full year. So, if you plan on playing a winter or spring sport please submit your paperwork now. The MJSAO does plan on having a competitive basketball season starting in the middle of November. Please visit www.mjisdodgers.org to register your child. Please contact Mr. Rossi with any questions or concerns admadisonjuniorschool@gmail.com

Meet the 6th Grade Team

On Wednesday, September 2, we will host two sessions of Meet the 6th Grade Team. At 9:00 am, we will host a presentation by Team A, led by Mr. Finkelstein. At 1:00 pm, we will host a presentation by Team B, led by Mrs. Brennan. You can locate your child's team using the team chart noted above and the teachers listed on your child's schedule. Students are invited to join us on the front lawn of the school as the sixth-grade teachers, special teachers, office, and counseling teams introduce themselves and share a little bit about the first days of school. By having the teachers host at the front steps and the students on the lawn, our staff will be able to share their faces and speak to families without their masks on. Students may bring a blanket or chair to sit on, and everyone should practice social distancing guidelines as well as use masks. We will be videotaping both presentations for everyone to watch via YouTube later in the day.

Material Pickup Days for Full-Time Remote Learners and New Students to the District

On Thursday, September 3 and Friday, September 4, Full-Time Remote Learners and New Students to MJS may come to school to pick up materials and Chromebooks. Families may walk up to the front door of MJS and request their materials anytime these two days from 9 am - 3 pm.

Thank You

There are many individuals that helped in the preparation and setup for this unique school year. A big thanks to our custodial staff, led by Mr. Steve Cosmen. This team took special care to see that our classrooms and hallways were not only ready to go but also safe and healthy.

The MJS PTO has gone out of their way to give many hours of their time to our pandemic response team and district return to school team. We appreciate the valuable connection to parents these volunteers bring, and we are grateful for the programs being supported this fall.

In turn, the Madison Education Foundation jumped right in this school year to provide fast track grants to support learning in the hybrid and remote learning models. The programs and initiatives MEF supports enhances learning in all content areas and enriches all our students' experiences.

And lastly, a thank you to our MJS families and community. Your feedback, questions, phone calls, emails, creative suggestions, and thoughtful notes have made all the difference. It truly does take a village, and our partnership is something we at MJS will continue to cherish.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brooke Phillips".

Brooke Phillips
Acting Principal
Madison Junior School



Summer Packet 2020-2021

Section I - Mandatory Forms on the Genesis Parent Portal (link: [Genesis Parent Portal](#))

To access the forms, the Primary Guardian will need to log into the parent portal. Upon signing in to the parent portal, you will be prompted to complete or review each of the following forms. The forms will be listed under the forms tab. Please note that all of the forms must be filled out in order to gain access to any additional information, other than contact information, in the Parent Portal. Please also note that the forms will only be available to the Primary Guardian. Once the Primary Guardian fills out the forms the portal will be unlocked for all Guardians and Students. If you encounter difficulty signing into the parent portal please contact the Main Office at (973)-593-3149 or [click this link](#).

1. COVID 19 Daily Questions
2. Demographic Information
3. Computer and Internet Use and Agreement & Parent/Student Permission
4. Computing Device Student Responsibility Contract
5. MHS Day of Service Consent
6. Military Consent to Contact
7. MHS Diploma Name (Mandatory for 12th Grade Parents Only)
8. District Media Consent and Release Form
9. NURSE: Annual Medical Information Update Form
10. NURSE: Permission for Medication Administration (If applicable)
11. Health Insurance
12. MHS Honor Pledge
13. Madison Mail & Email Consent to Send Out

Other Important Information

Absent and/or Tardy

The MJS Roll Call number is (973) 593-3149, Option 1. A parent or guardian must call this number by 8:40 am. Students are not permitted to call in themselves. In order to avoid missing instructional time, students must be in their class by 7:55 am. After two late arrivals in a marking period, the Assistant Principal will contact home for a family conference regarding tardiness. After three late arrivals, office consequences such as detention may be incurred.

Backpacks & Water Bottles

Students will be permitted to carry their backpacks to their classrooms and keep it with them all day. We will not be using lockers this school year. It is recommended that students bring refillable water bottles as we will have water filling stations for students to use.

Back to School Night

Back to School Night will be held on Thursday, September 17, via Zoom. More information will follow on how this important evening will run.

Chromebooks

Students in the maroon and gold cohorts already with district-issued Chromebooks should bring their charged Chromebooks with them for their first day of school. The students will be transporting their Chromebooks to and from school daily. It is important that the students charge their Chromebooks prior to reporting to school each day.

First Day of School:

Due to COVID and Social Distancing Measures, we will have different guidelines for arrival/dismissal. Sixth and seventh-grade students, upon arrival at the front doors, will immediately be brought inside to sit in the auditorium in seats that are noted for social distance requirements. Eighth-grade students should come around the front of the school and enter the side door near the faculty parking lot. Eighth graders will be immediately brought to the gym to also sit in seats that meet social distancing requirements. Upon the 7:50 am bell, students will be directed by their specific homeroom teachers to move to their classrooms. Teachers will walk with students in the first few weeks of school until comfort levels with the school building are reached.

[Genesis Parent Portal Guides in English and Spanish](#)

Google

Your child's teacher(s) will utilize Google Classroom to post instructional materials, directions, lessons, and assignments. Please refer to this excellent resource for information about Google Classroom - [A Parent's Guide to Google Classroom](#). For parent access to specific Google features, it would be very helpful for at least one parent of every student to establish a Google email address.

Parent Organizations

[Madison Education Foundation MEF](#)

[Madison Music & Arts MMA](#)

Madison Junior School Parent Teacher Organization PTO

A note from the PTO: Through your generosity the PTO has been able to provide support for many school activities including student social events, teacher hospitality, educational enrichment, parent/student assemblies and speakers, and support for 8th Grade graduation events to name a few. This year we hope to continue to support those same things while also helping provide necessities for the health and safety of our teachers and students. The PTO has already procured materials for teacher dividers to make our classrooms safer along with educational software to help engage students both in the classroom and remotely. With your support, we can help make the 2020/2021 school year a truly successful one.

*Your contribution is greatly appreciated, especially during these unprecedented times. The easiest way to support the MJS PTO and our efforts is through dues. While we know times are tough, if you are able, we would truly appreciate your help. For more information on donating, please [visit our dues page](#) . If you are interested in volunteering please reach out to Amy McClelland amyvmcclelland@gmail.com or Sandra Silbaugh sandrasilbaugh@yahoo.com. Sincerely,
Amy and Sandra*

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

The district is dedicated to the well-being of the children and adults in our school buildings. To prepare for our new school year, PPE equipment such as masks, gloves, plexiglass, and sanitizer throughout the school buildings will be available. In addition, new filters for univents, traffic flow decals, the elimination of common areas, distancing the students' desks, and signage will all be completed as safety measures.

Masks - Students and staff are required to wear face masks that cover their nose and mouth while in the building, and when they are not at least six feet apart outside, unless in an instance when doing so would inhibit the student's health. Dependent on the specific needs of students, special modifications to such requirements shall be considered. Students and staff may bring their own masks or masks will be provided by the school. Please see this communication from Assistant Superintendent Dr. Frank Santora for additional information about mask-wearing. - [Mask Wearing Communication](#)

Physical Education

Students will have PE every other day in the hybrid schedule. Students will not be required to change clothes, so it is suggested they dress comfortably. Activity will be light for in-school students, and the focus will be on mask breaks and movement. Remote learners at home will have a separate PE lesson they will complete.

School Visitors/Item Drop-Off

Due to COVID, no outside person will be allowed to enter the building. If you have to pick up your child for an appointment or have to change arrival/dismissal, you will need to contact Mrs. Damiano in the main office and you will be directed to wait at the front door for your child.

This year, due to COVID, we are not allowing the drop off of any materials for students. The drop off bin will not be accessible. Please make sure you develop a schedule and calendar so that each morning your child knows what materials they will need for that school day.

[School Supply Lists](#)**Student Drop-off and Pick up**

We encourage our parents to carpool whenever possible. Since safety is our primary concern, we urge everyone to be respectful of crossing guards, administrators, and faculty. For the safety and protection of our students, parents are not allowed to drop off or pick up their child in the MJS parking lot from 7:30-8:00 am or from 2:45 pm - 3:15 pm. Parents are encouraged to drop off on Brittin St., enabling both sides of Dodge Field to be used as a supplemental drop off area. See the map below for a visual explanation.

[Student Handbook 2020-2021](#)**Take-Home Lunch Option:**

Our district food service Pomptonian will be offering take-home lunches for students. Parents will receive information from the district at a later date about how to pre-order the take-home lunches. Lunches can be picked up in the lobby by in-person and remote learners at dismissal time.

Drop off/Dismissal Map below



Student walking path to front of school for entry/exit

AM PM drop off pickup locations on Brittin St.