

Notification from: **Melican Middle School (MMS)**

January 19, 2021

Dear Melican Families –

Faculty and staff are beginning to offer clubs and activities for our students, some during school, some before school, and some after school. Some of these will be offered in-person, some will be offered via Zoom, and some will be offered in a blended format. Jen Callaghan is working with staff to finalize the list we have, and we will be posting this list on our website and emailing families later this week. We are excited that we will be able to offer social opportunities for our students during this challenging time.

We received information last week that Annie Shaughnessy (Grades 6/7 Science Teacher) will remain on medical leave throughout the end of the school year. Crystal Coonan, who has been covering that position, will continue in the role this year.

Homeroom teachers will be distributing photo ID badges to our students Tuesday and Wednesday morning. We are asking our students to wear these ID badges throughout the day, and then to store them in their backpacks at the end of the day. Some of the student ID badges are “real” badges, and some are homemade. We are waiting for Morin’s Studio to upgrade the homemade badges to “real” badges.

There are two reasons why we are implementing the wearing of ID badges. Trottier Middle School has also implemented the wearing of student ID badges:

1. Safety- We have more students outside throughout the day this year, and this is a safety precaution. Faculty and staff are already required to wear ID badges throughout the day.
2. Purchasing Food – Beginning Wednesday (1/20), second lunches and second milks will no longer be free to students. First lunches are free for all students throughout the end of the school year, but second lunches and second milks will need to be purchased. Also, snacks (chips, etc.) will be available to purchase. Each student ID badge has a barcode, which will allow each student to purchase food (by simply scanning the barcode).

From Kyle Parson, Food Services Director:

*We will be selling snacks via a contactless system. Some of the items for sale will be Reduced Fat Potato Chips, Whole Grain Pop Tarts, Rice Crispy Treats, Beef Jerky and Fruit Juice Gummy Snacks. Parents can put money on their students account by logging in [www.myschoolbucks.com](http://www.myschoolbucks.com). All students must have a positive balance in order to purchase snacks. If a parent needs their students ID number, they can email Kyle Parson at [kparson@nsboro.k12.ma.us](mailto:kparson@nsboro.k12.ma.us).*

The Flu Vaccine is no longer a requirement. Please see below:

*The Massachusetts Department of Public Health is removing the requirement for flu vaccination for attendance in childcare/preschool, primary, secondary and postsecondary education. Preliminary data show that this has been a mild flu season to date, presumably as people have received their seasonal flu vaccine and have been adhering to mask-wearing and social distancing due to COVID-19. Given the intensive Commonwealth-wide efforts regarding COVID-19 vaccination, DPH wants to alleviate the burden to obtain flu vaccination and focus on continuing our COVID -19 vaccination efforts.*

*DPH continues to strongly recommend that everyone age six months and older receive their seasonal flu vaccine each year.*

*Jana Ferguson*

*Assistant Commissioner*

*MA Department of Public Health*

**Schedule for the Week:**

**Monday (1/18) – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – No School**

**Tuesday (1/19) – Day 2**

Cohort B – In-Person

Cohort A – Remote

SARP – Remote

**Wednesday (1/20) – Day 3**

Cohort A – In-Person

Cohort B – Remote

SARP – Remote

**Thursday (1/21) – Day 3**

Cohort B – In-Person

Cohort A – Remote

SARP - Remote

**Friday (1/22) – Day 4**

Cohort A – In-Person

Cohort B – Remote

SARP – Remote

Please reach out with any questions or concerns.

Respectfully,

Michelle Karb, Principal and Jen Callaghan, Assistant Principal