

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

March 28, 2022

Dear Melican Families –

Please see the following information from Superintendent Martineau regarding Elementary Grade Configuration:

Important Survey for Northborough PreK-8 Families: Elementary Grade Configuration

Dear Northborough Parent(s) and Guardian(s):

This fall, The Public Schools of Northborough formed an Elementary Grade Configuration Study Group to:

- Evaluate enrollment trends, projections, and current grade level configurations.

Current Model (neighborhood schools)

Partner School Model (K-2)(3-5)

- Identify opportunities to effectively maximize school facilities and resources to improve educational experiences for students.

- Present to the Northborough School Committee its recommendations.

The Study Group is seeking community input on two elementary grade-level configurations as part of its work. The survey results will be used to gauge community support and will be weaved into the Study Group's recommendation to the Northborough School Committee. The Study Group will present its recommendation for the next steps to the Northborough School Committee at its May 4, 2022 meeting.

I want to acknowledge that much more analysis, planning, and processing needs to occur before a decision regarding a grade-level configuration change across the four elementary schools is made. If the Study Group's recommendation supports further exploration of making a change, a more in-depth analysis will be conducted in 2022-2023, and an implementation plan will be presented to the Northborough School Committee in the spring of 2023 for a vote. If the Northborough School Committee votes to approve a change, the 2023-2024 school year would involve planning and preparing to implement the Northborough School Committee's approved configuration in 2024-2025, at the earliest.

In advance, I'd like to thank you for your participation.

The Public Schools of Northborough Elementary Grade Configuration Survey

The survey will close on Monday, March 28, 2022, at 4:00 PM.

April begins on Friday, and I'd like to recognize that April is Autism Acceptance Month. The Autism Society of America, the United States' oldest leading grassroots autism organization, is celebrating Autism Acceptance Month (AAM) in April 2022. Autism is a developmental disorder that affects 1 in 59 Americans as of 2020. In 1970, the organization launched an ongoing national effort to promote autism awareness and to assure that all autistic people are able to achieve the highest quality of life possible. The first annual National Autistic Children's week commenced in 1972, which evolved into AAM.

So why the shift from Autism Awareness Month to Autism Acceptance Month? Christopher Banks, President and CEO of the Autism Society of America, puts it like this: "While we will always work to spread awareness, words matter as we

strive for autistic individuals to live fully in all areas of life. As many individuals and families affected by autism know, acceptance is often one of the biggest barriers to finding and developing a strong support system.” The shift in terminology fosters acceptance to ignite change through improved support and opportunities in education, employment, accessible housing, affordable health care, and comprehensive long-term services.

Source: [Autism Acceptance Month - Autism Society](#).

Please see the Spring Interscholastic Sports Information from Assistant Principal Callaghan:

- [Softball Tryouts](#) - Monday, 2:15-4:00, and Thursday, 2:15-4:00. Tuesday and Wednesday, continue to condition on your own at home.
- [Baseball Tryouts](#) - Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, 2:15-4:00, meet on the baseball outfield.
- [Track](#) starts on Tuesday, 2:15-3:30. Please meet on the bleachers in the gym. Please bring sneakers and water bottle.
- Please Dress Warm on Monday!

Afternoon Dismissal: As a reminder, our parking lot is very full at 2:10, and thank you for your patience. If you are picking up your child/children, and you are not here before 2:05, we suggest arriving after bus dismissal around 2:15. Please do not wait on a side street, pull over in a driveway, and/or park on the front lawn of MMS to wait for your child. These are safety concerns that have been reported by neighbors and by the police.

Before and After School Activities - Please view our [Before and After School Activities List](#). This is also posted on our website. Staff members add to this list throughout the year.

eBackpack - Please also visit our [eBackpack](#) frequently for important community and school information.

MCAS Dates: These are [posted](#) on the Melican website. We will send more information about MCAS testing when as the dates get closer, but generally, MCAS testing takes place from 8:00-11:00 a.m. Students who are absent for MCAS testing have opportunities to make up missed sessions upon their return to school.

Morning Homeroom - Begins at 7:43. **If you are dropping off your child, please do so by 7:40 at the latest.**

Upcoming Dates:

- April 7 - Jennifer De Leon's Keynote @ Trottier @ 7:00 (see attached)
- April 8 – Wizards Game @ ARHS
- April 8 and 9 – Melican Musical @ ARHS @ 7:00 p.m.
- April 13 – Chamber Night @ 7:00 @ MMS
- April 15 – No School
- April 18-22 - Vacation

Please reach out with any questions.

Respectfully,

Michelle Karb, Principal and Jennifer Callaghan, Assistant Principal

Attachments available for 30 days until Tuesday, April 26, 2022:

[NSBORO Story Bridge Kick-Off Half Page Flyer.pdf](#)

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