

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

November 8, 2021

Dear Melican Families –

As we gained an hour this weekend and it gets darker earlier in the day, I want to update you on the status of our late bus. Historically, we have had two late buses that have transported students home AFTER after school activities. At this time, we have only one late bus that transports all students who choose to take it (we hope to eventually have two buses). We have made some adjustments since the beginning of the school year, and the late bus now arrives at school between 3:35 and 3:40, with students typically arriving home between 3:50 and 4:20. The late bus does not provide door-to-door service, and drop-off locations are different from the regular bus routes, which include seventeen buses. Our late bus runs Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday each week.

As you may know, one of our district goals is to provide all students access to challenging and culturally responsive learning experiences that meet their individual needs. To help support this work, we have started an equity audit process with our partner, Mass Insight Education & Research. This audit will help school and district leaders to develop the collective action necessary to meet the diverse needs of students, staff, and families. As part of this work, we will ask students to participate in a **voluntary and anonymous survey on Monday or Tuesday this week**. The student survey will be available in Spanish, Portuguese, Arabic, Mandarin, and English. Students will be able to self-select the survey in their preferred language. The student survey will take approximately 10 minutes to complete; students will be provided extra time if needed. The survey also includes an opportunity for students to sign up for optional focus groups. For those interested, focus groups will take place at school on November 16-18, 2021, and allow students an opportunity to share their experiences directly with the Mass Insight team.

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

Please see our Sports Update below from Jen Callaghan:

We ask athletes to please return all CLEAN uniforms to the office. Please make sure they are labeled with the athlete's name on it.

Basketball Interest Sign-up Sheets will be posted on Wednesday (11/10) this week. Any interested 7th and 8th graders should sign-up on the interest form outside of the health office. Interested athletes must have an updated physical in the health office to participate in tryouts which begin on November 29.

On November 17, there is an after school meeting (2:15-3:00) for 7th and 8th grade students interested in trying out for our basketball teams this season. In the evening (6:30 p.m.), I will offer a Zoom for families and athletes which will provide the same information, and provide an opportunity for families to ask questions about the program, process, etc. A Zoom link will be shared prior to the meeting.

Schedule for the Week:

Thursday (11/11) – No School – Veterans Day

We thank all of the men and women who have served in the armed forces.

Upcoming:

November 16 – Picture Make-Ups

November 17 – Interscholastic Basketball Meetings (in-person and via Zoom) – Grades 7 and 8

November 22, 23, 24 – Second Annual Gobble Wobble – Students and staff participate during the school day.

November 24 – Early Release – 10:45 Dismissal

Please reach out with any questions.

Respectfully,

Michelle Karb, Principal and Jennifer Callaghan, Assistant Principal

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