

August 30, 2021

Dear Melican Families –

Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year! We are excited about the opportunity to work with our students and families as we move closer to typical teaching and learning.

You can expect to receive our Monday Memo at 6:00 a.m. on Mondays throughout the year (Tuesday when Monday is a holiday). We strive to share as much information with you as we can in this weekly communication so we are not overwhelming you with emails throughout the week.

Student schedules were mailed home on Thursday afternoon. If there are issues or questions about a student schedule, we ask that you connect with the appropriate grade level guidance counselor: Grade 6 – Lauren O’Neil; Grade 7 – Jennifer Johnson; Grade 8 – Julie Morancy.

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

Families are asked to review our Handbook (linked on our [homepage](#)) over the next several days. We have included the link [here](#) for your convenience. Parents/Guardians will receive information about how to “sign off” that they understand the Handbook (via PowerSchool) later in the week, and students will sign off next week in one of their classes.

We have included key information below to help with the start of a new school year.

**Arrival:** Student drop-off is at 7:25 a.m. If you are driving your student, please use the first lane in the parking lot to pull down and drop off your student. The lane closest to the building is used by the buses until 7:40 a.m. Staff members will be outside to direct traffic in our parking lot. Students will wait outside (weather permitting) until 7:40, when they enter the building. In cases of inclement weather, 6th graders wait in the gym, 7th graders wait in the cafeteria, and 8th graders wait in the teaching Center (TC). Staff members will guide students along the way.

**Backpacks:** Students will not utilize lockers as we begin the school year and will carry belongings in their backpacks.

**Blank Student Schedules:** There are copies of our three grade level schedules found on our website. We have also included them [here](#).

**Dismissal:** We dismiss at 2:15 (10 minutes earlier than last year). Staff members will be outside to direct traffic in our parking lot.

**Lunch:** Please see the information below from Kyle Parson, Food Services Director.

*All meals continue to be free to all students. No sign up is required. Please encourage your child to take advantage of this benefit. Milk alone is considered to be an “a la carte” item and is not free when purchased as a stand-alone item.*

*Second meals and a la carte items (chips, snacks, cereal bars) are not free and require funds in the MySchoolBucks account or cash at the time of purchase. You can sign up for MySchoolBucks for free by using the link below.*

[www.myschoolbucks.com](http://www.myschoolbucks.com)

**Masks:** Students are required to wear masks when inside the building and on buses. Teachers will bring students outside throughout the day for mask breaks and/or for outdoor learning experiences.

**Morning Homeroom:** Homeroom begins at 7:48 a.m. We have 53 homerooms this year. Most homerooms are “half-sections” meaning that they are between 8 and 12 students and that they meet up with the other “half-section” to form a section. Sections travel together for ELA, science, social studies, and some specials.

**Phones:** The expectation for students at Melican is that all phones are put away in backpacks between 7:48-2:15. We would appreciate your partnership with this expectation.

**Sports Sign-ups:** Students will have the opportunity to sign-up for fall sports this week. We will make announcements throughout the week with specific details. In order to participate, a current physical must be on file in the health office.

**Water Bottles:** Please have students bring water bottles to school. The beginning of the school year can be hot.

**Schedule for the Week:**

**Monday (8/30) – No School for Students**

**Tuesday (8/31) – No School for Students**

**Wednesday (9/1) – First Day for Students!**

6:30 pm. – Northborough School Committee at Melican

**Friday (9/3)**

Reminder – There is no school next week on Monday (9/6) in observance of Labor Day or Tuesday (9/7) in observance of Rosh Hashanah.

We have also included the District’s [2021-2022 Key Covid-19 Protocols, Guidelines, and Recommendations](#) for your reference.

Please reach out with any questions.

Respectfully,

Michelle Karb, Principal and Jennifer Callaghan, Assistant Principal