

September 13, 2021

Dear Melican Families –

Several parents have reached out to me regarding student lockers. We are not yet using lockers, and this is creating a situation where students are carrying heavy bags with them throughout the day. I have consulted with our nurses, and we have information to suggest that our air flow in the hallways near lockers is not optimal. Students crowd around lockers when they use them and, out of an abundance of caution, we are waiting on using student lockers. We will be revisiting this in a few weeks. In the meantime, we have asked teachers to help students reduce the number of items they are required to carry to and from school and throughout the school day. We continue to monitor this issue carefully, and we appreciate your patience with this.

School Pictures Days are this Monday (9/13) and Tuesday (9/14). I have attached an order form to this email. All 6th Graders will have their photos taken Monday, along with 7th Graders in sections 7-1 through 7-5. All 8th Graders will have their photos taken Tuesday, along with 7th Graders in sections 7-6 through 7-8.

We ask that parents please include the reason your child is absent from school when you call to report him/her/them absent. We are still required to track potential Covid symptoms. Also, please keep your child home if he/she/they are experiencing potential Covid symptoms.

Our late buses are commencing service this week. Late buses run Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday throughout the year. Due to the holiday this Thursday, late buses will run Tuesday and Wednesday this week. Our late buses provide transportation home to our students who choose to stay after school for activities or for support from their teachers. We have 2 or 3 late buses so the routes are different from typical bus routes. Students taking the late bus report to the cafeteria at 3:15 after AFTER SCHOOL ends. Jen Callaghan will help students determine what buses they are on. Parents/Families who choose to pick up students after AFTER SCHOOL time should pull up to the front of the school. Staff members will help students with this dismissal process.

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

Please see our Sports Update below from Jen Callaghan:

MMS Sports at a glance

7th and 8th grade members of Cross Country will meet on Monday and Tuesday after school for practice. The first meet for 7th and 8th graders is on Wednesday at Shrewsbury. All practice times are 2:30-3:30. Starting on Tuesday, we will have late buses.

*6th graders are invited to join practice on Tuesday, 9/14, as long as he/she/they have an updated physical in our Health Office. 6th graders will participate in **HOME** meets only.*

Soccer Tryouts will continue on Tuesday and Wednesday after school, 2:30-4. The teams will be announced by the end of practice on Wednesday. Friday practice time TBD.

We are still looking for a field hockey coach. We have several students signed up and ready to play!

We will practice this week, Tuesday and Wednesday, 2:30 - 3:30. Late buses will be available for students.

Students can drop their sports equipment in the designated area inside the locker rooms starting on Tuesday.

[Fall Sports Schedules](#)

Schedule for the Week:

Monday (9/13)

School Pictures: All 6th Graders; Seventh Graders in sections 7-1 à 7-5

2:30-3:30 – Cross Country Practice – 7th and 8th Graders

Tuesday (9/14)

School Pictures: All 8th Graders; Seventh Graders in sections 7-6 à 7-8

2:30-3:30 – Cross Country Practice – 6th, 7th and 8th Graders

2:30-3:30 – Field Hockey Practice

2:30-4:00 – Boys’ and Girls’ Soccer Try-Outs

Wednesday (9/15)

2:30-3:30 – Field Hockey Practice

2:30-4:00 – Boys’ and Girls’ Soccer Try-Outs

3:45 – Cross Country Meet @ Oak Middle School, Shrewsbury – details regarding transportation will be forthcoming.

Hispanic Heritage Month takes place September 15 to October 15 every year as a time to recognize and celebrate the many contributions, diverse cultures, and extensive histories of the American Latino community. Beginning in 1968, Hispanic Heritage Month was originally observed as “Hispanic Heritage Week” under President Lyndon Johnson, but it was later extended to a month during President Ronald Reagan’s term in 1988.

Since then, the month has been celebrated nationwide through festivals, art shows, conferences, community gatherings, and much more. The month also celebrates the independence days of several Latin American countries, including: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua on September 15th, Mexico on September 16th, and Chile on September 18th. They also include holidays that recognize Hispanic contributions such as Virgin Islands-Puerto Rico Friendship Day that is celebrated in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Resources for further exploration include:

[8 Reasons Why We Celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month](#)

[Video-National Hispanic Heritage Month](#)

[15 Books that Celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month](#)

[Hispanic Heritage Month](#)

[Library of Congress](#)

[8 Reasons Why We Celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month](#)

[Latin American Authors](#)

[Latino Books for Middle and High School](#)

Thursday (9/16)

No School – Yom Kippur

Friday (9/17)

Constitution Day and Citizenship Day: On September 17, 1787, the Founding Fathers signed the U.S. Constitution. The Constitution, along with the Bill of Rights and other amendments, defines our government and guarantees our rights. In December 2004 a federal law was enacted that designates September 17 as "Constitution Day and Citizenship Day" to commemorate the signing of the United States Constitution. Each year, on September 17, Districts across Massachusetts celebrate Constitution Day and Citizenship Day.

We want to highlight a few resources for families that are related to this important day:

- [National Constitution Center](#)
- [National Archives](#)
- [Library of Congress](#)
- [Text of the Constitution and other primary documents relating to it](#)
- [The Center for Civic Education](#)
- [Discovering Justice](#) (at the Moakley Federal Courthouse, Boston)
- [The Massachusetts History and Social Science Curriculum Framework](#)
- [Constitution Workshop](#)
- [Constitution at Work: Elementary Edition](#)

Upcoming:

September 30 (Th) – Early Release for Students

10:50 – Student Dismissal

6:30-8:00 p.m. – In-Person Open House for Parents/Guardians

Please reach out with any questions.

Respectfully,

Michelle Karb, Principal and Jennifer Callaghan, Assistant Principal

Attachments available for 30 days until Tuesday, October 12, 2021:

[Morin's Studio Packages.pdf](#)
