

Dear Melican Families –

As we watched the events of January 6, 2021 unfold, we recognized the need to support our students. Some students wanted to talk about the events on Thursday and Friday, some had questions, and some were not interested in talking or writing about it. Students were given opportunities to talk or write if they wanted, and we answered questions they asked to the best of our ability. Our eighth graders had begun their study of the U.S. Constitution, so that was a natural connection for students in social studies class. We continue to encourage students to share thoughts and ideas about current events and to listen to others' ideas.

During a typical school year, we offer 35-40 before and after school activities and clubs for our students. We understand the need for social opportunities for middle school students, and we will begin to offer some activities soon. Some of these activities will be offered in-person, some will be offered via Zoom, and some will be offered in a blended format (both in-person and via Zoom). Several parents who completed surveys in November, and several students who completed surveys in December mentioned the need for activities and clubs to help students feel more connected to one another and to faculty and staff. These activities and clubs will be offered by our teachers and staff (as they are every year), and will be offered in addition to their teaching and supervision responsibilities. We recognize that teachers “give” of their time when they agree to offer these clubs and activities. We are working to organize some activities to start next week or the week after. We are cognizant of the need to have offerings for students in both our SARP and hybrid programs.

Sandi Davel, one of our 6th grade math teachers, will be out on a medical leave for several weeks. She taught remotely last week, while a building-based substitute covered her classroom. This week, Kristin Oswill, who has subbed for us in the past, will begin the week with Ms. Davel's students. Monday and Tuesday will be overlap days (with both Ms. Oswill and Ms. Davel working with our students), and then Ms. Oswill will take over those classes. She has been trained in Zoom, Canvas, and teaching 6th grade mathematics, and she knows and understands the routines of Melican.

Flu Vaccine – Date Extended. All students enrolled in school (including Stand Alone Remote students) are required to have the influenza vaccine *by February 28, 2021* unless a medical or religious exemption is provided.

Email: ldefeudis@nsboro.k12.ma.us or mrogers@nsboro.k12.ma.us

Fax: 508-351-7006

Quarantining - Please review the new [Travel and Quarantine Guidelines](#) shared by Superintendent Martineau. If your family is traveling, please call the school so we can help plan for your child's return.

Schedule for the Week:

Monday (1/11) – Day 4 Remote Monday Schedule

Cohort B – Remote

Cohort A – Remote

SARP – Remote

Tuesday (1/12) – Day 5

Cohort B – In-Person

Cohort A – Remote

SARP – Remote

Wednesday (1/13) – Day 1

Cohort A – In-Person

Cohort B – Remote

SARP – Remote

Thursday (1/14) – Day 1

Cohort B – In-Person

Cohort A – Remote

SARP - Remote

Friday (1/15) – Day 2

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