

8/26/20

Dear Mt. Blue High School Students and Families,

I hope that you all have been enjoying this wonderful Maine summer and that you are preparing for a return to school in just a couple of weeks. We have missed seeing you for the past five months, and we are all looking forward to your return to campus soon!

As you are aware, our day to day will be very different here at MBC as we all work to maximize the health and safety of our campus community. Given the adjustments that the district has made, I wanted to share a few details for your review. All of our schedules and protocols align with determinations made by the RSU #9 School Board related to our safe return to school. Further specifics and resources will be shared in the next week or so.

**Return to school:** Students will begin returning to school on Tuesday, September 8th. That is a gold day, and we will welcome students with the last names beginning with A-J on that date. Students with the last names beginning with K-Z will have their first day on Wednesday, September 9th, which will be a blue day. Please refer to the schedule below noting specifics for the first week. The red schoolhouse indicates onsite learning. The student with a laptop indicates remote learning.

## 9-12 First Week Schedule

|                                 | <b>Monday<br/>(Sept. 7th)</b> | <b>Gold Tuesday<br/>(Sept. 8th)</b>   | <b>Blue<br/>Wednesday<br/>(Sept. 9th)</b>  | <b>Thursday<br/>(Sept 10th)</b>   | <b>Friday<br/>(Sept 11th)</b>   |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|--|---|---|
| <b>Last Name<br/>A-J* Group</b> | Holiday                       |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Last Name<br/>K-Z* Group</b> | Holiday                       |  |   |  |  |

**Class of 2024:** Although the calendar does not allow for our typical Freshman Orientation Day, our ninth grade teachers and our BARR team members are planning a supportive transition for our newest students on campus. Please stay tuned for a separate mailing with a welcome and more detailed information.

**Hybrid and remote options and schedules:** Students and families were asked to choose either a hybrid model or a remote model for the duration of the first quarter. Both will have similar educational experiences with the same standards and learning targets by course. Students who have chosen the full remote model will be expected to engage in all class periods. Those who chose the hybrid model will follow the schedule below and will engage in their learning on the days that they are scheduled to be remote. Please see the visual below for a sample schedule for a student with a last name beginning with K-Z. Students with a last name beginning with A-J will have the opposite schedule (on campus on Monday and Tuesday and remote Wednesday, Thursday and Friday).

|   |   |   |  |   |
|---|---|---|--|---|
| Monday Blue<br>K-Z Remote<br>(A-J in Person)  | Tuesday Gold<br>K-Z Remote<br>(A-J in Person)                                       | Wednesday Blue<br>K-Z in Person<br>(A-J Remote)                                     | Thursday Gold<br>K-Z in Person<br>(A-J Remote)                                       | Friday<br>Blue<br>Remote for All  |
|   |   |   |   |   |
| Monday Gold<br>K-Z Remote<br>(A-J in Person)  | Tuesday Blue<br>K-Z Remote<br>(A-J in Person)                                       | Wednesday Gold<br>K-Z in Person<br>(A-J Remote)                                     | Thursday Blue<br>K-Z in Person<br>(A-J Remote)                                       | Friday<br>Gold<br>Remote for All  |
|  |  |  |  |  |

**Fridays:** Fridays are remote days for all students in grades 9-12. They will be engaging in each class period for the corresponding color day (Blue or Gold). Individual teachers will be sharing expectations for their specific classes at the start of the year. Because we will not have Late Arrival Wednesdays at this time, there will be about one early release Friday per month in order to allow for time for our required professional development. The schedule will be posted on our website in the near future, and the district calendar is currently posted on the district website.

**Daily schedule:**

- Period 1            8:15am – 9:25am
- Period 2            9:30am – 10:40am
- Period 3            10:45am – 12:25pm
- 1<sup>st</sup> Lunch            10:45am – 11:05 am
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Lunch            11:10am – 11:30 am

|                               |                     |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Lunch         | 11:35 am – 11:55 am |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> Lunch         | 12:00pm – 12:20 pm  |
| <i>Academic Support Block</i> | 12:25 pm - 12:45pm  |
| Period 4                      | 12:50pm – 2:02pm    |

**Grading and attendance:** It is important to note that we will have expectations for grading and attendance that will be different from the transition to emergency distance learning this spring. Our standards for attendance in classes this fall will be made clear to all. We will also revert to our normal grading and reporting practices upon our return to school. Individual teachers will provide more information related to their specific courses.

**Laptops for remote learners:** We are developing the schedule for laptop distribution for our remote learners. We will send out a communication when that is finalized, and families will be asked to come to MBC to collect them. For hybrid learners, we will be distributing laptops during the first days of school.

**Internet access and connectivity:** Prior to the start of school, families that requested assistance providing adequate internet access (through the survey sent out over the summer) will be contacted to determine the most effective solution. For families that live in areas with poor or non-existent cellular service, we will continue to work on connectivity options with our partners at the local, county, state, and federal levels.

**Face masks:** Face masks are required for all on campus. Specific medical concerns will be reviewed on a case by case basis. Doctor certification will be required. We will be strictly enforcing the mask requirement in order to maximize campus health and safety for all.

**Visitors:** We will be limiting visitors (to include parents and guardians) to the schools for safety reasons. If you need an appointment, please call the main office.

**Breakfast/Lunch:** Students will be provided with the opportunity for breakfast and lunch each day they are on campus. Students will exit the bus, head to the Food Court to eat breakfast, and then will report directly to their first period classrooms to wait until the class begins at 8:15. This will help to minimize the number of students congregating in the Food Court at one time. Regarding lunch, students will eat during period 3 classes as they have done in the past. We have structured the Food Court to allow for the appropriate social distancing (6 feet while eating), and we have also secured a large tent so that students can eat outside with socially distanced seating. Those who are remote learners will be provided with information on how to access meals prior to the start of school.

**Drop off and pick up:** As per the daily schedule noted above, we will begin our classes 30 minutes later than usual. This is due to the need to minimize large group gatherings and to accommodate supervision and bus arrival times. Buses will pick students up later than in years past (stay tuned for those details) and will drop off at MBC 30 minutes later. The first buses will

now arrive on campus at 7:35 instead of 7:05. They will continue arriving until 8:10. Parent drop off and students driving themselves will be permitted in the building beginning at 7:30. Please do not arrive before that time. We want to ensure adequate supervision, which can begin at 7:30. Period 1 will start at 8:15.

Regarding dismissal at the end of the day, the timing of the bus schedule will remain similar to past years with a first run and a second run. However, we continue to work out the details for the release time of those being picked up and our student drivers. Again, in order to ensure proper social distancing, we need to minimize the number of students being released from classes at the same time. We will share that information as soon as determinations are made.

**Cleaning Procedures:** Our custodial staff members have secured equipment to ensure that our facilities will be properly cleaned and disinfected at the end of each school day. We also intend to disinfect tables in between lunch shifts both in the Food Court and in the courtyard under the tent.

**Athletics and after school activities:** At this time, we will not be holding any after school activities. A determination on the fall sports season will be made in the near future. Currently, Phase 4 of the Maine Principals Association guided summer workouts begins on Monday, August 24th. These workouts will follow the same guidelines as Phase 3 but will only be offered for fall sports teams. The MPA recently sent a memorandum stating that they continue to work cooperatively with the Maine Department of Education, the Governor's Office, DHHS, DECD, and the CDC, as well as Maine Athletic Directors, Superintendents, and School Boards to develop possible guidelines regarding school athletics and activities. They have stated that they understand that a decision needs to be made and have assured that one will be made in a timely fashion.

**Daily health screening, illness and school response:** It is expected that all students will conduct a health screening each day before entering the school. Details on that procedure will be shared in the near future. We will also share information about how we plan to respond if students become ill while on campus, as well as our return to school protocol after illness.

Our top priority is to welcome students and staff back to school as safely as possible. We appreciate your understanding of the current circumstances and your patience regarding the details still to be decided. We will be sure to share more specific information related to our back to school procedures as the first day of classes approaches. Until then, please enjoy the last weeks of summer vacation and be sure to do your best to remain healthy!

Sincerely,

Monique Poulin  
Principal