



High School Happenings October 29, 2020

News & Information

- **Hybrid Return to On Premise Instruction:** This edition of the Happenings newsletter will focus on the protocols and procedures for the anticipated return to on premise hybrid instruction that will take place in the coming weeks. The information below is generally of most relevance to those students and parents who have opted for a return to the school building as a participant in the hybrid cohort plan. Those students and parents who have chosen to remain in a full virtual environment will continue to participate in daily instruction, following the same schedule and procedures that have been in place since the start of the school year. Teachers will continue to utilize Zoom and Google Meets as primary components of instructional delivery as they work to meet the needs of students in the on premise groups and those participating in a virtual environment.
- **Reopening Guide for Students and Families and 2020-2021 Health and Safety Plan:** Parents and guardians are encouraged to visit the Methacton School District website at www.methacton.org to read information about the return to on premise instruction found in the Reopening Guide for Students and Families and the 2020-2021 Health and Safety Plan. Both of these documents can be found posted on the website.
- **Chromebook Distribution:** Many of our students and families generously gave back their district issued Chromebook or deferred receiving a Chromebook earlier this fall to allow the devices to be distributed to students in other grades. A district issued Chromebook is an essential resource for all students returning to on premise instruction. Chromebooks are now available for all students. If your child does not currently have a district issued Chromebook, please visit the district website at the following address to make an appointment to receive a device.
<https://www.methacton.org/site/default.aspx?PageType=3&DomainID=4&ModuleInstanceID=183&ViewID=6446EE88-D30C-497E-9316-3F8874B3E108&RenderLoc=0&FlexDataID=4513&PageID=1>
- **Immunization Requirements:** Letters have been sent to parents of students that need to complete required immunizations to attend school virtually and on premise. Students will be excluded and unable to attend school on November 16, 2020 if the required immunizations are not completed. All days of exclusion will be considered unexcused

absences. Please contact the school nurses, Mrs. Peiffer or Mrs. Thompson for any questions by phone or email: 610-489-5000 x25040.

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- **The Hybrid Schedule:** Hybrid Students rotate every other day in a 4-day cycle on premises (M-TH) with Friday being all-online. (Friday aligns with the asynchronous day for all North Montco Technical Career Center students.) It is imperative that students and parents be aware of their assigned group and only report to school on the specifically assigned days of the week.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Group A Empower	On Premise	Online	On Premise	Online	Instruction Continues Online
Group B Inspire	Online	On Premise	Online	On Premise	Instruction Continues Online
Methacton Online	Online	Online	Online	Online	Instruction Continues Online

- **The Letter Day Cycle:** Methacton High School operates on a six-day letters cycle, A through F with many courses operating on an every-other-day, ACE or BDF basis. This letter day cycle will continue during hybrid instruction. The chart below highlights the cycle letter days of the first two weeks of a return to on premise instruction. It is imperative that students and families continue to be aware of the letter days and recognize that these will continue throughout the school year. Additionally, the report to school schedule is different for the week of November 9 compared to the report to school schedules that will take place starting on November 16. Please see the chart below for information about the grade levels that report to school and the corresponding letter day. **North Montco Technical Career Center (NMTCC) Students who opt for the hybrid option will all be assigned to the Empower Group and will be transported from MHS to NMTCC on Mondays and Wednesdays.**

Monday November 9	“F” Day	Grades 9 and 12: Empower Group: NMTCC students to North Montco during regularly schedules sessions
Tuesday November 10	“A” Day	Grades 9 and 12: Inspire Group
Wednesday November 11	“B” Day	Grades 10 and 11: Empower Group: NMTCC students to North Montco during regularly scheduled sessions
Thursday November 12	“C” Day	Grades 10 and 11: Inspire Group
Friday November 13	“D” Day	Virtual for all grades
Monday November 16	“E” Day	All Grades: Empower Group: NMTCC students to North Montco during regularly scheduled sessions
Tuesday November 17	“F” Day	All Grades: Inspire Group

Wednesday November 18	“A” Day	All Grades: Empower Group: NMTCC students to North Montco during regularly scheduled sessions
Thursday November 19	“B” Day	All Grades: Inspire Group
Friday November 20	“C” Day	Virtual for all grades

- **Morning Arrival:** Doors to the building open promptly at 7:15 AM. Masks must be worn to enter the building and at all times in the building other than when eating or drinking. All students must be present in their first period class at the sounding of the bell at 7:35 AM otherwise they are considered late and will be asked to report to the West Wing Main Office. Please see the specific arrival procedures below:

 - **Car Riders:** East Wing loop and East Wing Main Entrance: Parents dropping off students should do so only at the East Wing, Athletic Office area entrance at the far side of the building nearest to the Kriebel Mill Road and Mill Road intersection. Please make one line of vehicle traffic and do not attempt to make a second line and go around stopped traffic in the drop-off loop. Students should exit the vehicle as the vehicle stops along the sidewalk. Students dropped off by private vehicles will wait in a socially distanced manner in the Cafeteria until the sounding of the bell to move to first period at 7:30 AM. While in the Cafeteria, students will be required to sit in identified seating areas to ensure social distancing.
 - **Bus Riders:** West Wing loop and West Wing Main Entrance: Students riding a school bus to school will disembark at the West Wing bus loop area beginning at 7:15 AM and will then wait in a socially distanced manner in the Main Gym area until the sounding of the bell at 7:30 AM. The bus disembarking procedures will be done in a controlled manner with school personnel coordinating the exit of students from four to five buses at a time.
 - **Senior Drivers:** Driving to and parking in the Senior lot is a privilege reserved for Seniors only. Members of the Class of 2021 will receive separate information about registering a vehicle for parking on campus. Senior drivers will park in a designated parking spot in the Senior lot and will then enter the building via the Senior entrance doors. Any Senior driver arriving prior to 7:30 AM will wait in the Auditorium until the sounding of the bell at 7:30 AM. While in the Auditorium, students will be required to sit in identified seating areas to ensure social distancing.
- **Classroom Layout:** Methacton High School classrooms have a multitude of different room configurations, however every instructional space will be arranged such that student desks maintain a 6X5 spacing. Teacher workspaces will be arranged to allow for access to the projector/whiteboard area and computer ports/terminals. Hand sanitizer will be available in all classrooms and students will be asked to sanitize their hands upon entering and exiting the classroom. Teachers will maintain a seating chart for all classes and students may only sit in their specifically assigned seats. Desk surfaces will be wiped by teachers at the end of each class period.
- **Routines:** The following information is about common routines and procedures that will need to be followed:

- Masks will be worn in the building at all times by students and staff.
- Lanyards with identification badges will be given to all students and will be required to be worn at school.
- Social distancing will be maintained in classrooms, the cafeteria and at other gathering areas throughout the building.
- Hand sanitizer will be available for student use when entering and exiting classrooms.
- The SmartPass contactless electronic hall pass system will continue to be utilized for the creation of hall passes and student passes to destinations throughout the building. Students may utilize SmartPass on their district issued Chromebook and may choose to but are not required to utilize it on a personal device. The SmartPass system capabilities will be leveraged to assist with social distancing by limiting the number of passes that can be generated to certain areas at any one time.
- Students will not change into uniforms for physical education classes and the pool will not be utilized for classes at this time. Locker rooms will be used for storage of personal belongings with staggered use of the locker room.
- The district issued Chromebook will continue to be utilized as a resource in most class periods. Students are encouraged to charge the Chromebook overnight each evening and to always bring the Chromebook to school.
- Water fountains will not be in operation in the building however several bottle fillers are available throughout the building.
- **Class Period Transitions:** Six (6) minutes of “passing time” between instructional periods and three (3) minutes to lunch have been built into the school day bell schedule. Dismissal from class will take place at the ringing of the bell for those students moving to the opposite wing of the building for the next class period. Dismissal from class will take place three minutes into the transition period for those students remaining in the same wing of the building for the next class period. Dismissal will take place at the same time for classes moving to lunch as this is a reduced number of students overall.
- **Lunch:** MHS has four lunch periods this school year, each one thirty (30) minutes in duration, as follows:
 - X Lunch: 10:22 AM - 10:52 AM
 - A Lunch: 11:14 AM - 11:44 AM
 - B Lunch: 12:06 PM - 12:36 PM
 - C Lunch: 12:58 PM - 1:28 PM

While in the cafeteria, students will be socially distanced in both the main cafeteria and commons areas. Students will be required to choose a seat that will become their assigned seat in the cafeteria every day. Students may not choose different seats each day. This is to enable contact tracing procedures, if necessary. Staff members will speak with students at each table on 11/16 and 11/17 to finalize the seating chart. Seating charts will be created again at the start of the second semester. Modifications to food service procedures will be made as per Aramark. Supervision in the main cafeteria and commons areas will take place daily by staff members.

- **Dismissal:** Procedures for dismissal will take place in a staggered fashion as follows:
 - 2:15 PM Senior drivers and car riders will be dismissed from seventh period.

- 2:20 PM Bus riders and athletes remaining on campus will be dismissed from seventh period.
- Seniors with 7th period study hall may request early departure either at 1:28 PM or at 12:58 PM if they have last lunch followed by study hall. Parent permission and signature on a permission form is required.

The next Happenings email and video will be distributed on Thursday, November 12, 2020.

Methacton Pride! Warrior Pride!