



MORRIS HILLS REGIONAL DISTRICT

SUPERINTENDENT of SCHOOLS
James J. Jencarelli 973.664-2291

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT
CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION
Nisha Zoeller, D. Litt. 973.664.2293

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR
& BOARD SECRETARY
Joann Gilman Auricchio 973.664.2281

SUPERVISOR OF
HUMAN RESOURCES
Peter Lazzaro 973.664.2297

August 3, 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian:

We hope this correspondence finds you healthy and safe. The purpose of this letter is to share with you the district's plans for the reopening of school in September. Our plans were developed in collaboration with all district stakeholders in accordance with the Governor's Restart and Recovery Guidelines and with the safety and well-being of our school community at the forefront of our decision-making.

Based on the state guidelines, both high schools will operate at approximately 50% capacity with social distancing measures in place. All students and staff will be required to wear masks/fitted face coverings while on campus or on the school bus, unless exempted by medical necessity. School buses will run at reduced capacity and with assigned seating. Families who will not be utilizing MHRD transportation for the semester or year can fill out a waiver form [here](#).

Students will attend school in person two days a week and participate virtually three days a week in a hybrid model. Students will be divided into two cohorts: Cohort 1 will attend in person on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, while Cohort 2 will attend in person on Thursdays and Fridays. Siblings will be assigned to the same cohort. On Mondays, both cohorts will participate virtually from home. Whether in school or at home, students will be following a set bell schedule.

We will begin the year with a half day schedule that will run from 7:30 AM to 12:05 PM at Morris Knolls and 8:05 AM to 12:40 PM at Morris Hills. (Z-block for MSE students will begin at 7:18 AM.) Each class block will be approximately 60 minutes in length; as per our usual schedule, 4 blocks will run on A Day and 4 blocks will run on B Day. However, to maximize the safety of our students and staff, meals will not be served on campus. Eligible students will be able to pick up their meals for the week at designated locations every Monday. We hope to expand to a full day and include lunch on campus as the school year progresses if health and safety conditions permit.

While the district is operating under this hybrid model, all students will be required to leave school grounds at the end of the school day (12:05 PM or 12:40 PM). Fall activities and athletics will begin at 2:30 PM at Morris Knolls and 3:02 PM at Morris Hills. Families will be responsible for transporting students back to campus; the district will provide a late bus home.

The district is also offering students the option to participate virtually from home all five days of the week through the full-time remote option. If you are interested in this option, please fill out [this form](#) no later than Friday, August 14, 2020.

In the event that the district is required to close by the state or the department of health, we will move to an all-virtual schedule. This all-virtual schedule will require students to attend classes from home on a set bell schedule, and students will be expected to participate in real time with their teachers.

Thank you for your continued patience and flexibility throughout our planning process. Additional information regarding the schedule, health and safety protocols, and other considerations can be found here in our [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\) Document](#), which will be updated as needed. In the coming weeks, we will be providing additional details and informational videos to facilitate a smooth start to the school year. We wish you an enjoyable rest of the summer.

Sincerely,

The Morris Hills Regional District Administration