



# Mountainside Board Of Education

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[www.mountainsideschools.org](http://www.mountainsideschools.org)

**Mrs. Janet Walling – Superintendent of Schools**

August 30, 2020

Dear Mountainside Parent / Guardian:

You are receiving this letter because our records indicate that you have chosen for your child to attend Mountainside Schools as a “Fully Remote” student for the beginning of the school year. If this information is NOT correct, please contact your child’s school as soon as possible so that we can update class lists and schedules. If this is correct, I am pleased to welcome you to a new year in this format and ask that you read below for a variety of very important information regarding the structure and instructional programming for your child:

- **Teacher Assignments:** Teacher assignments were mailed out for all Mountainside students. You will receive one for your child as well. The homeroom teacher that you receive is for the purpose of placement if you choose to have your child attend school in-person later in the year. This homeroom teacher is also your point of contact if you have any grade level or instructional questions throughout your child’s time on remote learning. While your child will most likely receive direct instruction from a variety of grade level/subject area teachers, please know that his/her homeroom teacher will keep track of your child’s progress and be prepared in the event that your child joins the in-person class at a later date.
- **Remote Orientation:** A time will be scheduled for your child to participate in a **Zoom Orientation** with his/her homeroom teacher on either Thursday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> or Friday, September 4<sup>th</sup>. Further information will be sent out early this week.
  - Remote students will not be able to attend the in-person orientation sessions being scheduled. Due to the classroom set up and the fact that these sessions are focused solely on the in-person structure and procedures, we will not be able to accommodate these requests.
  - **Please Note:** An orientation opportunity **will** be created at our transition points during the year so that any students who are planning to return to in-person education will have the opportunity to see their classroom and learn about our procedures and expectations at that time.
- **Student Material Pick-Up:**
  - **Scheduled Pick-Up:** Parents/guardians will be able to pick up any school-related materials for their child at the following times on Friday, September 4<sup>th</sup>. This will be conducted as a drive-up/pick-up process
    - **Beechwood: 9am-11am in front of the Board of Education Entrance**
    - **Deerfield: 9am-11am rear parking lot near the Gym Entrance.**
      - **If you cannot pick up your child’s materials during this**

**scheduled time, they will be available for pick-up in the lobby area of each building on Tuesday, September 8th AFTER 9:00 am.**

- **Technology:** If you indicated a need for a District provided Chromebook on your Parent Programming Request Form we have this information and will have the device available for you that day. If you did not indicate this, and your circumstances have changed, please contact [support@mountainsideschools.org](mailto:support@mountainsideschools.org) so that a device can be set aside for you.
- **Additional Materials:** Your child's teacher/grade level may determine that there are specific school related materials (workbooks, textbooks, etc.) that your child needs to have for the beginning of the year. If so, they will let you know about this and the materials will also be available during the scheduled pick-up time, or at a later date.
- **Student Schedules:** Your child will receive a detailed schedule which outlines his/her live instructional periods for each day/week. This will be provided by your child's grade level team and/or homeroom teacher prior to September 8th.
  - **IMPORTANT -- Schedule Update and Enhancement:** In order to increase opportunities for fully remote students to receive direct academic instruction throughout their day/week we will implement a cohort model at each grade level where teachers will share in the delivery of instruction. This scheduling adjustment may look different at various grade levels, however, overall the Remote Learning Program will now include at a minimum, the following:
    - 2 or 3 instructional periods with homeroom or grade level-specific teachers per day (The number of periods each day will vary based upon a rotating schedule)
      - **This is an increase of 1-2 instructional periods PER DAY from our previously shared instructional programming plan**
      - Please keep in mind that classroom teachers will be providing in-person instruction from approximately 8:30 - 1:00; therefore, some live interactions with staff will be scheduled to take place between 1:20 and 3:30.
    - Between 3 and 5 Related Arts/PE remote classes per week
    - Daily Google classroom assignments which align with all standards and instruction taking place within the in-person school day.
      - Assignments may include the following: teacher created assignments, pre-recorded videos and lessons, on-line textbooks and practice, independent activities, written work, and other developmentally appropriate lessons
    - Grades K-2: Additional morning check-in and organizational support from a District staff member.
    - Additional small group sessions may be scheduled to take place at identified times for eligible AIM students or others demonstrating need for added support
- **Special Education:** Student programming will align with grade level peers who are also on Remote Learning. Instructional supports will be provided by special education and paraprofessional staff as identified within student IEPs.

- **Related Services:** If your child receives related services, his/her teacher will reach out to you once school begins to coordinate your child's programming schedule.
- Please contact the Child Study Team office with any specific special education related questions: [jgoerlich@mountainsideschools.org](mailto:jgoerlich@mountainsideschools.org)
- **Attendance:** Instruction will begin for your child on **Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>**.
  - Student attendance will be taken daily during live instructional sessions.
    - If your child will not be in attendance for instruction on any given day please call the school nurse or leave a voice message on the attendance line of your child's school to report his/her absence so that we can update our attendance records.

We are aware that there will be some bumps along the way as we navigate through these beginning weeks and this new structure. I appreciate your support and understanding along the way and encourage you to reach out to your child's teacher, or building principal, with any instructional questions that you may have.

Be well and enjoy your last week of summer,

*Mrs. Janet Walling*