



MOUNTAINSIDE SCHOOL DISTRICT

1497 WOODACRES DR., MOUNTAINSIDE, NJ 07092
908-232-3232

WWW.MOUNTAINSIDESCHOOLS.ORG

MRS. JANET WALLING – SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

JWALLING@MOUNTAINSIDESCHOOLS.ORG

August 29, 2022

Mountainside Parents / Guardians,

I hope that you are well and enjoying these fleeting last days of summer. I would like to share a number of details and updated information that you will find helpful as you prepare for our upcoming new year :

Important September Dates:

Tuesday, September 6th -- Classroom Visitations for Grades PEAK - 3 - Please refer to information that will be sent out by your child's principal regarding this event

Wednesday, September 7th -- Opening Day for students (Full Day) -- Have an amazing day and a wonderful upcoming year!!

Wednesday, September 21st -- Beechwood Back to School Night

Thursday, September 22nd -- Deerfield Back to School Night

Opening Details

- **Genesis Parent Portal** - **The Genesis Parent Portal will open on Thursday, September 1st.** Once logged into the portal you will be asked to complete various required forms and will then be able to see your child's homeroom teacher and/or middle school schedule. To help you prepare for this, please note the following:
 - Parents who already have a Parent Portal account will be able to use the same login and password information as last year.
 - **Parents who are new to the district will receive a welcome email from Genesis on Wednesday, August 31st.** This email will contain your login information along with a copy of the Parent Portal Users Guide.
 - Be sure to review and update contact information, assign emergency contacts and add any people that you give permission to pick up your child from school. **It is VERY important that this information is updated whenever you have a change.**
 - If you have any difficulties accessing the Parent Portal please contact our technology department at support@mountainsideschools.org

- **Health Protocols** - I am VERY pleased to share that based on the most recent guidance from the CDC and NJDOH we will not need to have any large scale COVID protocols in place at this time. Specifically, this means the following:
 - We will no longer conduct contact tracing or require students to maintain 6 foot distancing.
 - There are no travel quarantine restrictions in place.
 - We will return to pre-COVID absence protocols. Students on quarantine will follow similar procedures to all other illnesses which require an absence.
 - Any student who needs to be excluded will be provided with classwork via a teacher packet or Google Classroom access beginning no later than the second day of their absence.
 - Faculty will be accommodating in catching students up on anything they missed --students will not be penalized for having to isolate.
 - Students who have COVID like symptoms must remain home and contact the nurse for next steps.
 - **Positive Cases** -- Please continue to report positive COVID results to the District. Students/staff who test positive will need to remain home and isolate for 5 days. Students may return to school on day 6 if asymptomatic. Wearing a mask in school will be required on days 6-10.
 - Masking is **optional** for all students and staff with the exception of the following limited circumstances:

- Anyone returning on days 6-10 of isolation/quarantine must be masked in school and on the bus.
 - Close contacts will be encouraged to wear a face mask for days 1-10 while in school or on the bus.
 - Students who are exhibiting symptoms will need to wear masks when in the Nurse's Office
 - In the event that there is an increase of cases within a specific classroom, staff and students will be encouraged to mask and increase distancing in that room. The length of masking will be determined upon consultation with the Westfield Regional Health Department.
 - Rest assured that we will remain vigilant to any changes in local cases or guidance and adjust our protocols accordingly if needed.
 - Should you have any additional questions about these changes, please feel free to reach out to the school nurses or me for further information or guidance.
- Health and Family Life Curriculum -- As you may be aware, the NJDOE has updated these standards at all grade levels for implementation in the 22-23 school year. This summer, Mountainside staff revised our curriculum to meet the new requirements and the updated documents will be presented to the Board of Education for approval at their meeting on Tuesday night. The new standards were fully evaluated to create lessons which include terminology and topics that are appropriate to student development and grade levels being taught. To help you with this process and the changes in the standards, please note the following:
 - The draft curricular documents have been posted on the [District Curriculum](#) page of the district website.
 - We included information in the **Teaching and Learning Actions-Instructional Strategies- Activities** section of each unit to identify specific links and details about the lessons that will be used to address each standard.
 - Parents have the ability to "opt out" of any specific portion of the curriculum or standards that are in conflict with his or her conscience or sincerely held moral or religious beliefs. Further information on this process will be sent out at the beginning of school.
 - Busing Information - If your child is scheduled for mandatory or subscription busing you should receive information in the mail within the next few days regarding your child's pick-up location and timing.

I look forward to welcoming your children back on September 7th for a new year filled with meaningful educational opportunities, new experiences, friendships, and growth!

Mrs. Janet Walling

