

# **MOUNT SINAI MIDDLE SCHOOL**

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SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

September 2, 2021

Dear Middle School Parents and Guardians,

Only one week remains before the hallways and classrooms are once again filled with eager learners. I hope that you and your families were able to enjoy the warm weather and relax over the last two months and that your children are excited to meet their new teachers and make new friends with some of the many new district registrants.

This letter is to provide you with information about several important matters, as we welcome the return of your children to the Middle School building on the first day of school, **Thursday, September 9, 2021.**

## **New Assistant Principal**

On July 1, 2021, Mrs. Melissa Drewisis assumed the role of our new Middle School Assistant Principal. Having spent ten years in a fifth-grade classroom, and after completing her Stony Brook University Internship last spring, she is excited and well prepared to meet the challenges of administration that lie ahead.

## **A Return to Normal**

The custodial staff has been working diligently all summer to clean and prepare the building for reopening. We no longer will have desk shields, arrows on floors indicating one-way hallway traffic patterns, dedicated up and down staircases, or separate grade level entrances that were some of the COVID-19 measures in last year's reopening plans. Students in grades 6-8 will be assigned lockers, sports will commence with full seasons and we hope to run afterschool clubs and grade level field trips.

## **COVID Protocols**

As per Governor Hochul's mandates, masks will be required for all students, teachers and other staff members in the building. The health and safety of all students is our top priority and the wearing of face masks will significantly reduce the need to quarantine students as close contacts, so that the continuity of in-person learning is not interrupted. Students are also required to wear face masks on all school buses. Students who show up to school without a face mask will be denied entrance and marked as absent. We will not be taking temperatures at the door or asking for the daily health questionnaires. If your child is not feeling well, please do not send them to school. Students will be able to remove their face masks when seated in the cafeteria for eating and masks are not required for recess or outdoor physical education classes. To the greatest extent possible, we will maintain 3' social distancing at all tables.

## **Facemasks and Water breaks**

Teachers have been advised to allow frequent mask and water breaks in a consistent and common-sense approach as students readjust to wearing facemasks again.

## **1:1 Initiative**

I am very excited to announce that students in Grades 7 and 8 will be loaned a Dell laptop as part of the new 1:1 initiative for the 2021-2022 school year. Distribution will be during homeroom classes the week of September 13 -17. Parents and students are asked to read the Mt. Sinai School District User Agreement and Optional Insurance Policy posted on the District website and individual school websites. The laptop will include a charger and plug, but no protective shell. A Google Link has been placed on the Middle School website and students must complete the required information by Friday, September 10, 2021 in order to receive their laptops the following week.

Students in Grades 5 and 6 will be loaned a Chromebook as part of an expanded 1:1 initiative for the 2021-2022 school year with distribution expected in October. The Chromebooks will include a charger, plug and protective shell. Additional information on the open enrollment period for the insurance policy will follow once the distribution plan is finalized. In the meantime, parents and students are encouraged to read the Mt. Sinai School District User Agreement and complete the information on the same link noted above. If you have any questions regarding the 1:1 Initiative, please contact the Office of Information Technology at 631-870-2812.

## **Grades 7 and 8 Schedules**

Students in Grade 7 and 8 should report to their homeroom/first period class on the first day of school. A new schedule will be distributed to them at that time that will include the rest of their teacher's names and room numbers.

## **Back to School Nights**

We have scheduled Back to School nights to take place in the school building on the evenings noted below. Parents will go directly to their child's first period/homeroom classes as there will be no large groups gathering in the auditorium as in the past. Start time will be at 7:00 p.m. and masks will be required.

Grades 5 and 6 – Tuesday, September 14, 2021

Grades 7 and 8 – Tuesday, September 21, 2021

Thank you for your attention to the above information. Please do not hesitate to call the Main Office at 631-870-2700 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth E. Hine  
Principal  
Mt. Sinai Middle School