



MOUNT SINAI MIDDLE SCHOOL

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March 23, 2020

Greetings Parents and Guardians,

Life as we knew it has changed drastically this past week for you and your children, as well as for the aides, support staff, teachers and myself at the middle school. So many staff members have expressed to me how much they miss their students and would rather be in school with them. I am sure many of you are expressing the same sentiments about your children missing their teachers and wanting to be in school with them rather than home trying to learn independent of their expertise and social peer interactions.

Our Superintendent has been keeping the community informed with as much information as possible and as quickly as it becomes available to him. Having spent the last week guiding and assisting teachers in these new uncharted distance teaching endeavors, I wanted now to reach out to you as the principal to encourage and support you and your children during this difficult and uncertain time. While you are faced with hours more of "family time" and establishing new "home school" routines, it helps to know we are working hard to provide you with as many resources as possible to make this transition easier.

One routine I would like to continue with your child is the daily Pledge of Allegiance each weekday morning. Our country needs the support of all of its citizens and this is a great way to foster and exhibit this much needed patriotic spirit. Students can click on the Middle School webpage link to recite it each morning with me before they enter their Google classrooms or work on teacher assignments posted on websites or sent home in packets.

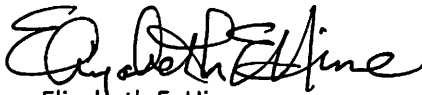
Please be sure to check the district and school websites for updated information frequently. Feel free to email your teachers or me (ehine@mtsinai.k12.ny.us) with any questions or concerns that develop over the next few weeks. If I do not have an answer, I will try to get one for you as soon as possible.

Fortunately, better weather days are ahead now that spring is officially here. Be sure to take care of yourself and get out for some recreational fresh air breaks (while heeding social distancing cues) to handle stress for both you and your child. If it is any consolation, I too am faced with similar challenges in caring for an eighty-five year old parent while at the same time working from home, leading from a distance.

Personally, I find these times to be an exciting leadership challenge but look forward to a quick return to normalcy as much as every New Yorker and American citizen. This "new normal" will certainly bring about changes on many levels, including new and better health consciousness and initiatives, concern

for our elderly citizens, an economy less reliant on outside countries, and a stronger united nation of people. This year in our schools and the field of education will definitely be “one for the books” as far as how it was redefined and restructured on many fronts and how we move forward in the years ahead. I look forward to being a part of all this and how it will affect Mt. Sinai and the middle school.

Stay safe. Keep washing your hands.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth E. Hine". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Elizabeth E. Hine
Principal
Mt. Sinai Middle School