



MOUNT SINAI MIDDLE SCHOOL

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September 29, 2020

Dear Parents of Sixth Grade Students,

It is a pleasure to see students back in the school building and witness the resiliency of your children. As you know, the Re-opening School Plan was an initial means to open schools after the covid-19 shut down last spring. While it was not an optimal solution with no student attendance on Wednesdays, it was the safest way to transition back to the classroom amidst all the social distance protocols.

Plans are in place to bring sixth grade students in for a four day school week, similar to the fifth grade, starting on Monday, October 5, 2020. Two additional classroom sixth grade teachers were hired to add a fourth section to each of the upstairs and downstairs teams. Ms. Danielle Hine will be joining the upstairs team of Duffy/Dundas/Palazzolo to be the team's dedicated Science teacher. Ms. Danielle Mortensen will be joining the downstairs team of Birbiglia/Dono/Siani to be the team's dedicated Social Studies teacher. Both teachers have classroom experience and are excited to be part of our Mt. Sinai faculty.

In order for this change to be implemented, several students will be removed from each sixth grade class to create these new sections. New teacher assignment letters will be mailed separately to those selected to make this homeroom change. No student will be moved between teams so they will still have the same teachers as when they started school in September. While some may find this inconvenient, this also helps to reduce class sizes for social distancing purposes.

Additionally, beginning on Monday, October 19, 2020, Ms. Katherine Campbell will become the remote instructor for those distance learning students who have not "physically" returned to school. This is the second step necessary to enable the classroom teachers to instruct the in-school population for five days per week rather than four days per week. Students will be seeing Ms. Campbell on a daily basis according to a scheduled period of online instruction. She will be instructing students for 90 minutes each day via a "live" format in the five core academic areas of ELA, Math, Science, Social Studies, and Reading. A schedule of this "live" instruction will be mailed separately to the remote learners and will take place within the regular academic school day hours. This change means that your child's original homeroom teachers, who were posting pre-recorded videos, will no longer be doing so and they will be transferring all educational responsibility to Ms. Campbell, including attendance, grading, classwork, and homework assignments.

We hope this transition is a smooth and fluid change that benefits both groups of students. Please reach out to your child's guidance counselor at 631-870-2730 with any issues that this new means of remote instruction may present.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth E. Hine

Principal

Mt. Sinai Middle School