



MOUNT SINAI MIDDLE SCHOOL

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October 5, 2020

Dear Parents of Fifth Grade Students,

It is a pleasure to see students back in the school building and witness the resiliency of your children. They have adapted to being "middle schoolers" under very unusual conditions, rather seamlessly, following new routines in the classroom and building. They had to adjust to mask wearing and one way traffic patterns.

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. Remote learners needed a day dedicated to the classroom teacher check-ins and for teachers to prepare their pre-recorded videos to post to the Google Class Pages.

This week, sixth grade students have returned to school for a four day a week schedule and now plans for both grades 5 and 6, to be back for 5 days a week, are progressing. Plans are in place to bring back the fifth and sixth grade students for a five day school week starting on Monday, October 19, 2020. An additional teacher has been hired to provide remote instruction to those distance learning students, which enables the classroom teachers to instruct the in-school population every day.

The fifth grade teachers are a dedicated group and will continue to coordinate instruction with their grade level peers and now also Ms. Alexandra Troutman, who joins them as the new remote teacher. She is an experienced 5th grade teacher with proficiency in technology platforms such as Google Meets and Zoom. She has utilized these platforms to connect with her students in creative ways during the closure period.

Those students who will be seeing Ms. Troutman on a daily basis according to their scheduled period of online instruction, will enjoy her energy and expertise. She will be instructing students for 75 minutes each day via a "live" format in the five core academic areas of ELA/Reading, Math, Science, Social Studies, and Writing. 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 teacher, who was posting pre-recorded videos, will no longer be doing so and all educational responsibilities will go to Ms. Troutman, 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 631-870-2701 with any issues that this new means of remote instruction may present.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth E. Hine
Principal
Mt. Sinai Middle School