

## **Welcome to the 2024-2025 school year!**

We have welcomed all of our students over the past few days and are eager for the exciting year to get rolling. I am honored to be leading this fine group of staff and students through another year of educational adventures. If you have any questions or concerns, I can be reached by phone at the school or through email. Feel free to reach out to discuss anything and please plan to attend our school council meetings to hear the latest in our building first hand.

Our main focus this year is on our students achieving acceptable and excellence standards in curricular outcomes. In order to support this goal and ensure students are learning we need them to be in school. I need you to make sure that your child is present and on time every day. Since Covid we have collectively treated school as optional. I feel this needs to change, and I need your help to do this. When a student misses a day, they fall behind, they miss a prerequisite skill that builds towards the next skill. Absence creates a gap, and this gap interrupts the flow of learning for your child. The staff at MHS are great but remember we are educators and not magicians and we can't teach empty seats. Our focus on improving literacy and numeracy has to be supported by parents and students valuing regular attendance and punctuality in class. Whenever possible, avoid the scheduling of activities /appointments and vacations during scheduled school time. When we maximize attendance we maximize learning opportunities and student success. Positive and productive communication is key to ensuring that all stakeholders are on the same page about educational importance and elements that are supporting or impeding a student's achievement. We will have in-person parent teacher interviews in October and March, but welcome other meetings as needed to support students.

In order to support you in promoting positive attendance, PowerSchool will generate a list of absent students and contact home 2 times a day. If a student is not present in a class, the teacher will mark them absent. If they arrive late, the teacher may not always be in a position to change the "absent" to "late" immediately and the system may still call and email home. However, if you would like to confirm, you can login to your parent portal and see your students' attendance status. If you are ever in doubt do not hesitate to call the school and confirm. If you know your student will be absent, please contact the office with the reason so that we can enter it into our system appropriately.

To be successful please remind your children that all they need to do is pay attention in class, do their homework, and ask for help when they are struggling.

Almost all of the classes will have a digital google classroom that holds assignments, assessment dates and additional learning materials. Teachers can invite parents to be included to help support students in learning. In addition, creating a PowerSchool account can help you stay on top of attendance, assignment completion, assessment preparation and achievement. Student practice, homework and assignments are the building blocks of learning demonstration before a quiz/test to measure learning. The completion of these activities are critical in the ability of teachers to monitor student learning and progress. Please contact the office to help set up an account if you do not already have one.

## **SchoolCash Online**

All fees and outstanding items will be listed on Schoolcash. Programs with fees will appear on the account and can be paid for through various platforms online.

## **School Photos - Monday September 9**

Smart Photography will be taking school photos on Monday September 9th. All order forms will be online. Remember - DO NOT WEAR GREEN!

## **Sports**

Our extensive sports program is off and running.

- Senior volleyball teams began tryouts this week
- Junior teams will have tryouts next week.
- Senior golf team will be heading to Edson soon
- Junior and Senior cross country running will be starting shortly.

Please Note: Throughout the year, parents may be required to drive students to competitions. If you wish to drive more than your own student, you must get a letter from Mrs. Hansen to get a criminal record check (this takes two weeks), proof of insurance, a driver's abstract and a complete volunteer driver form.

## **Textbooks/Library Books**

If your student has any outstanding textbooks/library books, please return them to the office as soon as possible. Outstanding books will be placed on SchoolCash Online accounts in October.

## **Meet the Teacher - Thursday September 12 at 5:30pm**

All parents and students are welcome to join us for a hot dog and a chat. We will introduce our staff and you will have the opportunity to walk the halls and ask questions.

## **Grade 12 Parent and Grad Meeting - Thursday September 12 at 7:30 pm**

Parents and students should attend this meeting to discuss graduation qualifications, how to support your student in achieving their diploma, meeting the grad executive and setting up the remainder of their final year in high school.

## **School Council Establishment Meeting**

There will be a school council establishment meeting on Thursday September 19th @ 7 pm. We will elect members to the position of Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and others if needed. Please join us and hear the latest news in the school and the division.

### **Upcoming Dates:**

- Awards Night is October 10th at 6:00 pm
- Parent Teacher Interviews are October 23rd and 24th from 4:00 - 7:30 pm

Thank you for taking the time to read through this newsletter. They will be emailed the first week of the month and I look forward to supporting you and your family on your educational journey!

Sincerely

Kariann Roszko