



Shark Bytes



MRMS to host “5th grade / new student orientation” on August 27th

Inside this issue:

- Summary of summertime changes at Monomoy* 2
- Tips and Tools for a Successful Year* 3
- Fall Sports / Health Requirements for 7th graders* 4

Upcoming Events:

- Monday, August 27th 8:30—9:30 AM Orientation for incoming fifth graders and students new to Monomoy
- Tuesday, September 4th first day of school
- September 12th and 26th Early Dismissal; students dismissed at 2:40 PM
- Friday, September 14th 6:30—8:30 PM Fifth grade dance/social
- Friday, September 21st 5:30—7:30 PM Beach and Bonfire Night at Red River
- Thursday, September 27th 6:30—8:30 PM Curriculum night for parents
- October 23rd and 25th Parent-Teacher conferences; students dismissed at 12:25

As we prepare for the reopening of school on September 4th, we want to make sure our incoming fifth graders, along with any sixth or seventh graders who are new to Monomoy, enjoy a smooth transition to their new school.

To that end, we invite all students and parents who are new to our building to attend our **“new student orientation” on Monday, August 27th from 8:30 AM to 9:30 AM.** This program is designed for incoming fifth graders and their parents, along with any sixth or seventh graders (and their parents) who are new to Monomoy.

The morning promises a bit of something for everyone. Parents will meet with the administration, hear about our programmatic offerings and daily schedule, and learn about some of the unique educational expe-

riences that make our school so special.

Students will find out which team they are on, receive their schedules, find their lockers, and participate in a school “scavenger hunt”. They will also learn about the many clubs and sports we offer and meet key personnel like our school nurse, guidance counselor, school resource officer, and athletic director.

At least one parent/guardian should accompany his/her child for orientation, as parents will receive their Aspen usernames and passwords. An Aspen account enables parents to view grades online, to get a description of missing assignments, to track attendance, and to contact teachers via e-mail.

Monomoy follows a quarterly schedule, so an active Aspen account helps parents keep



Summer afternoon, summer afternoon; to me those have always been the two most beautiful words in the English language.

~Henry James

abreast of their child’s academic progress between report cards. For households that cannot attend on August 27th, we will mail the orientation information.

The teachers and the administrative staff are excited about the new school year and we look forward to welcoming our fifth graders and our new students on August 27th! See you there!

School Council / MRMS Parent Group

The MRMS School Council is comprised of teachers, parents, and community members. If you are a parent or community member interested in serving on our School Council, please reach out to the MRMS principal, Mark Wilson, mwilson@monomoy.edu.

The School Council meets monthly. One of its most important functions is to monitor the School Improvement Plan and develop the school budget. Our first School Council meeting will take place on Monday, September 24th at 3:30 PM in the admin conference room.

We also have a MRMS Parents Group. Our agendas focus on strengthening the school-community partnership. The group always meets directly after School Council—our first meeting is Sept. 24th at 4:30 PM. Please email Mark Wilson if you would like to join!

Summary of recent technological and organizational changes at MRMS



A successful team is a group of many hands but of one mind.

Like a welcome summer rain, humor may suddenly cleanse and cool the earth, the air, and you.

- Langston Hughes



A perfect summer day is when the sun is shining, the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing, and the lawn mower is broken.

~James Dent

Monomoy Regional Middle School has taken several steps to strengthen our educational programming. Here is a summary of those changes.

We are a one-to-one Chromebook school.

The vision for district’s digital learning initiative is to have instruction drive the use and integration of technology into all content areas.

Through our school’s “One-to-World” Chromebook initiative, MRMS will make learning more meaningful and relevant for our students; will better prepare our students for the challenges of college and their chosen career; will help our students become responsible digital citizens; and will enable our students to grow intellectually, personally, and creatively.

Through research into best practices regarding technology use in schools, MMRS chose Google Chromebooks and the G-Suite tools (formerly called Google Apps for Education) as the best choices for achieving technology integration across all curricular areas.

Our long-term goal is to use the technology to create student-centered, project-based classrooms where student engagement, participation, and collaboration thrive. We also want to use the technology to differentiate instruction based on the needs of individual students, to strengthen communication among teachers, students, and parents, and to reduce the amount of printed materials distributed in our classrooms.

Each fifth grader will receive a Chromebook to use during

his/her three years at MRMS, and we will provide each student with direct instruction on how to use the technology appropriately. We hope you share our excitement about this initiative!

We have also installed GoGuardian software on our school-issued Chromebooks. GoGuardian enables teachers to automatically record the websites each student visits during a lesson and receive a summary email, by student, of those websites. Teachers can also block sites and see thumbnails of each student’s Chromebook screen at a glance.

We have maintained our low class sizes.

Monomoy Middle School is justifiably proud of maintaining low class sizes in our core academic classes of math, ELA, science, and social studies. For the upcoming school year, our average class size will be eighteen for grades 5 and 7, and twenty-one for grade 6. Our Unified Arts classes in grade 6 and our Advanced Math classes in grade 7 will run a somewhat higher.

We teamed to support students at all grade levels.

Teaming provides consistency and collaborative support for students at all grade levels. In fifth grade, pairs of teachers are teamed with thirty-six or so students. The fifth grade teams this year will be:

- Red River** - Ms. Babb & Ms. Majka
- Fox Hill** - Ms. Hanna & Ms. Widegren
- Tern Island** - Mr. Quinn & Ms. Kane
- Long Pond** - Ms. Rutledge & Ms. Donovan

In sixth grade, our core academic teachers (ELA, math, science, and social studies) are also organized into teams. To support students with individualized learning needs, each team also has a special education teacher assigned to the team. Our sixth grade teams are:

Hawks Nest - Ms. Botsford (ELA), Ms. Driscoll (Math), Mr. Smith (Science), Mr. Viti (Geography), & Ms. Rice (Special Education).

Strong Island - Ms. Bourget (ELA), Ms. Reed (Math), Ms. Randall (Science), Mr. Malloy (Geography), & Ms. Tobin (Special Education).

The seventh grade follows the same model. Our seventh grade teams are:

Wychmere Harbor - Ms. Cortese (ELA), Ms. Forist (Science), Ms. Reuss (Social Studies), Ms. Estes (Math), & Ms. Davol (Special Education).

Herring River - Mr. Sullivan (ELA), Mr. Schumacher (Math), Ms. Gifford (Science), Mr. Sumner (Social Studies), & Ms. McDonnell (Special Education).

At all three grade levels, special education teachers and/or instructional assistants are assigned to help meet the needs of students with individualized education plans (IEPs).

We welcomed seven educators to our Monomoy community!

We worked hard to find and hire the best possible candidates to teach our students. Please see insert titled “new faces” for a short bio on each of our new staff members!

Tips and tools for a successful school year

The first day of school is quickly approaching. Here are a few things you can do BEFORE school opens to help with the transition.

* **Ease back into a routine**—a week or so before the first day, re-establish breakfast, dinner, and bedtime routines.

* **Designate a space for homework**—set up necessary school supplies in this space.

* **Select a spot for backpacks and lunch boxes**—routines help with organization.

Here are a few things you can do DURING THE FIRST FEW WEEKS of school to help students stay informed and organized:

*Mark your calendars with important school dates/information.

*Keep the family schedule clear while everyone gets used to the routine.

*Plan extra time in the mornings to adjust - pack lunches & backpacks at night.

*Establish an after school routine for going through school papers, homework, etc.

*Attend informational meetings, parent-teacher conferences, and open houses.

*Familiarize yourself with school personnel.

*Communicate questions or concerns with teachers, counselors, and/or administrators.

Tardy or Absent Students

If your child is going to be tardy or absent from school, please call the school at 508-945-5140 x1112 between 5:00 AM and 10:00 AM.

Our school nurse, Ms. Amy Sullivan, will record the absence. If we have not heard from a parent / guardian by 10:00 AM, the school will call you at home and/or your place of employment.

Please keep us apprised of any changes in your emergency contact information (telephone numbers, cell phone numbers, place of employment, address, etc.) as soon as they occur. This information is vital to the safety of your child and the efficient operation of the school.

School Security

All Monomoy exterior doors

are locked at 9:00 AM. Parents, guests, and tardy students must enter by the main office. Please ring the bell and announce your presence to the secretary. The secretary will unlock the right-hand door. Once you enter the building, please report to the main office.

Opening Day

On September 4th, school will reopen for the year. Parents who transport their children should NOT arrive before 7:30 AM as there is no adult supervision to ensure student safety. Student drop-off between 7:30 and 8:15 is at the main entrance. After 8:15, please drive behind the building and drop your child off at the rear entrance to the cafeteria on the right side the building. Students should enter the cafeteria and remain there.

Buses will arrive between 8:20 AM and 8:35 AM. Upon arrival, bus students should report to the cafeteria.

A bell will ring at 8:50 AM, signaling the start of the school day. On opening day, all fifth grade students will report to the auditorium, all sixth grade students will report to the cafeteria, and all seventh grade students will report to the gym-

That beautiful season
the Summer!
Filled was the air with
a dreamy and magical
light;
and the landscape
Lay as if new created
in all the freshness of
childhood.

~ Henry Wadsworth
Longfellow

nasium. Sixth and seventh grade students will receive their schedules and be escorted by their homeroom teachers to homeroom. Fifth grade students will be greeted by their homeroom teachers and then be escorted to homeroom.

Electronic Communication Devices

Once students enter the building, all personal electronic communication devices (cellphones, iPods, Kindles, etc.) should be switched off and stored in student lockers. During the school day, the only time students may turn on their personal devices is to accomplish a specific instructional purpose. Please respect this expectation, which has protected the integrity of our instructional time and reduced social media issues/conflicts.

School Day and Before/After School Activities

This fall marks the district's second year of adjusted start times at all four schools.

The MRMS school day will begin and end with homeroom. Students should be in homeroom at 8:45 and they will be dismissed from homeroom at 3:15. **Students catching a**

ride to school by car should arrive no later than 8:35 AM.

For households wishing to drop their children off earlier than 8:35 AM, the school will open its doors to students at 7:30 AM with the school library open and staffed every day from 7:30 to 4:15. As there is no adult supervision before

7:30 AM, please do not drop your child off before that time.

We hope to offer a slate of engaging & enjoyable morning & afternoon clubs—please be on the lookout for our club offerings brochure, which we will publish later this summer to give students a few club options each AM and PM.



Monomoy Regional School District

Monomoy Regional Middle School
425 Crowell Road
Chatham, MA 02633-1969

Phone: 508-945-5140

Fax: 508-945-5110

Email: www.monomoy.edu



Monomoy Regional School District

Fall sports / 7th grade medical requirements

Fall Sports News

This fall, Monomoy will offer the following interscholastic sports: boys soccer, girls soccer, field hockey, and cross country. For boys and girls soccer, we will field an A team. For our B soccer teams, we have partnered with the Chatham and Harwich Rec Departments to offer a boys and girls Monomoy Rec Team. MRMS will continue to offer an A team and a B team for field hockey. Once we finalize the hiring of coaches for the fall season, our district athletic director—Karen Guillmette—will reach out to share information on coaching appointments, practice and game schedules, and how to sign up for our interscholastic sport offerings. The school also

offers golf as a club sport.

The first day of interscholastic sport practice will be held after school on Monday, September 10th. Fall athletes will need to register through FamilyID, our on-line sign-up tool. Only student-athletes with a completed physical exam on file with our school nurse, Ms. Sullivan, will be allowed to participate. To be eligible for fall sports, the physical exam must have been completed on or after September 1, 2017.

Vaccines required for 7th graders prior to entry

Every rising 7th grader is required to receive 1 dose of Tdap, 2 doses of MMR, and 2 doses of Varicella by Massachusetts law. If your child has

recently received these vaccines as part of his/her annual physical exam, please forward a copy of the updated immunization record to the nurse's office ASAP. You can also fax the record to us at 508-945-5110.

If your child has not received these vaccines, please schedule an appointment with your primary care physician to have this done before September 7th. **For health and safety reasons, the administration must exclude your child from school if we do not receive the necessary documentation.** However, exceptions can be made if immunizations conflict with sincere religious beliefs and/or a medical exemption is necessary.



Don't miss the boat!