

August 20, 2021

Dear Millbrook Families, Faculty, and Staff,

The Millbrook Central School District (“MCSD”) is excited to welcome students and staff back for the 2021-2022 school year. Our first day back to school for staff is Tuesday, September 7, 2021, and our first day back to school for all student Blazers is Wednesday, September 8, 2021. We are planning to implement full-time (5 days per week), in-person instruction for all students at all grade levels.

The District has been thoughtfully and actively planning all summer long for September in preparation for the arrival of our students, faculty, staff, and all other members of the school community at large. This letter is intended to provide an update on our plans for students to return to full-time, in-person instruction for the 2021-22 school year, along with health and safety measures that the District will be implementing to mitigate against the risks of COVID-19 transmission. Please note that these health and safety measures are based upon the latest guidance from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (“CDC”), [American Academy of Pediatrics](#) (“AAP”), [New York State Education Department](#) (“NYSED”), and Department of Behavioral and Community Health (“DBCH”). The primary goal of the District, consistent with guidance from all of these entities, is to promote the return to school that maximizes in-person teaching and learning in a manner that protects the health and safety of our students, faculty, staff, and school community.

Based on the guidance provided as of the date of this correspondence, the MSCD is anticipating that the following health and safety measures will be in place upon the commencement of the 2021-2022 school year:

- All students (except those for whom a medical necessity requires other arrangements) will be expected to return to school on September 8, 2021, for five days of in-person instruction per week, following a full-day schedule.
- Masks will be required for all individuals inside school buildings and on school transportation regardless of vaccination status. As a universal precaution, this enables students, faculty, and staff to safely engage in the educational process, while increasing the likelihood of the schools remaining open for in-person instruction based upon quarantine protocols. This precaution is supported by the CDC, AAP, NYSED, and DBCH, as well as our school district physician. While there will be an exemption for individuals who are unable to medically tolerate wearing a mask, please note that documentation from a healthcare provider will be necessary to substantiate any such exemption. Each request for a medical exemption to mask-wearing will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

- Mask-wearing outside is optional.
- All of the District's schools will adhere to the CDC's recommendation that a minimum of three (3) feet be maintained among students indoors.
- All students, faculty, staff, and visitors will continue to complete the Daily Health Screener.
- Cleaning and disinfection protocols that are consistent with current guidance and will continue to be implemented.
- The District will continue to encourage proper hand hygiene, and make available hand sanitizer and masks, as well as additional personal protective equipment, as needed on a case-by-case basis, consistent with state and federal law.
- At this time, athletics are scheduled to proceed with health/safety mitigation measures in place. We are currently waiting for additional guidance from the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) and/or the Section IX Athletic Council.
- MCSD will continue to make available information related to vaccination opportunities and share information about these opportunities as a resource for those individuals who have not yet been vaccinated and desire to do so.

In addition, COVID-19 screening testing of unvaccinated students, faculty, and staff may be implemented (with consent where required), to the extent necessary to protect the health and safety of the school community. This topic will be the subject of discussion and possible action at a future Board of Education meeting.

Please Note:

Lockers will be made available to students in grades 6-12.

Technology:

- As a reminder, all students returning for the 2021-22 school year were allowed to keep their school-issued Chromebooks over the summer. Please have your child return to school with their Chromebooks in September. Kindly remember to bring back the Chromebook carrying case and charger as well.
- If your child has not used their school-issued Chromebook over the summer, it would be a good idea to charge it and login to ensure proper functioning before returning in September.
- If you notice any issue with the device, or if you have any questions or concerns, please contact the main office of your child's school, or reach out to our IT Helpdesk directly by phone: (845) 677-4200, Ext. 1138, or via email at: helpdesk@millbrookcsd.org.
- Some student devices may be upgraded or exchanged in September. Those students will be notified ahead of time and exchanges will be handled during the school day.

Additional updates will be provided before the start of school. Given the unpredictability of COVID-19 and the tentative nature of the guidance (which is likely to evolve over the course of the school year as the risk of transmission and other variables evolve over time), the measures we implement may also change, consistent with available public health information and recommendations from healthcare experts.

We can't wait for our **Blazers** to return to school! There will be challenges ahead, but I know we will gracefully and successfully overcome them because we are #MillbrookStrong!

As always, the District appreciates your understanding, patience, and continued support!

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me at:
Laura.Mitchell@Millbrookcsd.org

Sincerely,
Laura
Your Proud Superintendent of Schools