

November 24, 2020



Dear Millbrook Families and Staff,

With Thanksgiving in just a couple of days, I wanted to express my sincere gratitude for how wonderful our students, staff, and families have been throughout these difficult times. I am impressed every day by how our teachers and staff meet each challenge that comes their way with grace and courage to ensure our students receive the best education possible. I am equally impressed with how our students (both remote and in-person) continue to put forth effort and care into their learning regardless of the many changes and disruptions they encounter.

Thank you, families, for your help in our re-entry efforts; your support, patience, flexibility, and cheerleading are most appreciated and welcomed as we continue to try to navigate these extraordinarily complex and demanding times.

I am thankful for our support staff, nurses, facilities team, and food service workers who meet the needs of our students and families on a daily basis to ensure our schools are safe, clean, welcoming places for teaching and learning. Finally, I want to thank the district and building leaders and the Board of Education for their tireless work, effort, and full commitment to our students' safety and education.

RETURN TO SCHOOL - The plan is to return to the hybrid learning model (for those who chose this model) on Monday, November 30. Should plans change for November 30, you will be notified via Schoolmessenger and an Alert will be posted on our website.

MEALS SURVEY - DEADLINE EXTENDED - PLEASE COMPLETE BY Friday, November 27 - 6:00 PM - Meals are available for this year for FREE to all children 18 and under. Please complete all parts of this form to ensure that we provide the correct number of meals and deliver to the correct place when necessary. Thank you! [SURVEY LINK](#)

Also, please complete the Free and Reduced Price lunch application, [available here](#). Despite all meals being free this year, we still need to have applications on file for those who are eligible. You can either mail the application to: Holly Heady, Millbrook Central School District, PO Box AA, Millbrook, NY 12545 or take a picture/scan and email to holly.heady@millbrookcsd.org. The letter that explains all about free and reduced price lunch is [available here](#).

MILLBROOK CSD ATHLETICS UPDATE - On November 9th, the New York State Public High School Athletic Association approved "low and moderate risk sports" to begin on November 30th and announced the delay of "high-risk sports" until further notice. For Millbrook, Winter Indoor Track is the only low or moderate risk sport that is offered. Basketball and cheerleading are considered high risk and are mandated to be delayed until early 2021.

During the Board of Education meeting on November 17, 2020, Al Hammell, Athletic Director, and Caroline Pidala, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, and PPS, presented this information to the Board along with additional guidance that must be followed by schools that elect to participate this year.

Due to barriers to participation including incomplete guidance, concerns about the potential for COVID-19 spread between and amongst athletes (in District and opponent schools), and the recommendation to engage in Winter Indoor Track outside (which creates a set of unique complications), the administration and the Board of Education have determined that Millbrook CSD will not be participating in Winter Indoor Track. We have not yet determined whether we will participate in the high-risk sports (basketball and cheerleading) which are due to begin at a later date.

The administration has committed to keeping the Board of Education apprised of any changes in guidance that would impact our recommendation and will keep you abreast of any new information as it becomes available.

STAYING SAFE AND HEALTHY - As the holiday break approaches, there is great concern about the rise in [COVID-19 cases in our area](#). Increased risk factors with the upcoming holiday include students returning from college for Thanksgiving, families traveling to COVID-19 hotspots, and an increase in the number of gatherings over this holiday break. To keep ourselves, our families, our friends safe (and our schools open!), it is important for us as a community to follow the NYS Department of Health Guidelines which include:

- Limiting indoor and outdoor gatherings at private residences to no more than 10 people
- Following quarantine guidance as stated on the [NYS Coronavirus webpage](#)
- Continuing to wear masks and maintain social distance with people who do not share a residence with you
- Practicing appropriate [hand washing hygiene](#)
- Spending time outdoors and increasing air circulation when indoors
- Anyone who travels to local or distant hotspots need to report this and quarantine

Wishing you a wonderful Thanksgiving filled with delicious food, hearty laughs, and time for yourself and with others (safely, of course).



Sincerely,
Laura,
Your Proud Superintendent of Schools