

Greetings MMW Families of 6th Graders-

I hope this email finds you and your families well and eagerly anticipating the start of middle school and the changes and excitement that follows. A typical spring and summer would have afforded opportunities to connect in person and become familiar with the MMW building, teachers, and culture. However, as you know, these times have been anything but typical.

We know that getting into the building, finding your classes, and meeting teachers creates a more calm and confident first day of middle school. To make that possible, we have been working hard to develop a safe orientation experience that both meets those needs, and follows MDH and MDE guidelines.

Please join us on Thursday, September 3 for your 6th grade orientation. Please carefully note the following guidelines that need to be in place to ensure the safety of all involved. In addition, please wear a mask, remain socially distant, and follow the 6' sticker markers on the floor. If you are experiencing any covid-like symptoms, please stay at home. MMW staff will strictly enforce these guidelines.

How the 6th Grade/New Student Orientation will work:

- All 6th grade students and new students will be split into five alpha-groups with assigned 30-minute time blocks. **Due to covid restrictions, families may only attend during their designated time.** To ensure social distancing, all families will be asked to clear the building before the next group enters.
 - 4:00-4:30 Last names A-C
 - 4:45-5:15 Last names D-H
 - 5:30-6:00 Last names I-Mi
 - 6:15-6:45 Last names Mo-Si
 - 7:00-7:30 Last names Sm-Z
- To ensure appropriate capacity, **students can attend with only one adult.**
- Groups will enter via the Media Center door (door 32E) and receive a map of the building.
- Students can print their schedules at home or have it pulled up on their iPad or phone. Schedules can be found in Skyward by clicking on the blue SCHEDULES tab. If you cannot access your schedule, we will have one for you.
- Pairs will proceed on a self-guided tour; they can find their classes, say “hi” to teachers, and locate other important locations in the building.
- **We have not assigned lockers at this time, this will take place later in September.**
- All groups will exit through the main entrance. Students can then enter the cafeteria through door 2E where they can get their picture taken. Please see the attached flyer.

- Supervisory paras, administration, and support staff will guide groups through the building and ensure they exit at the end of their scheduled time.
- Teachers will be in their rooms, but will have no formal presentations.
- Please limit interactions with teachers to socially distant, brief greetings.
- In lieu of formal, in-person back to school presentations, we will share a google link to all teachers' course information and virtual presentations.

Due to staffing adjustments, your 6th grade counselor will now be Laura Rosati. You can find more information about our [counseling models on the MMW website](#). Watch for additional upcoming communication and a video from Junior First Mates.

For additional information, please refer to the letter sent home on Saturday, August 22. [This letter is also linked here](#).

Again, thank you for your patience and support during this planning process and as we launch the new year. I look forward to an amazing three years together. This is the start of an incredible journey of growth on so many levels. I am honored to be a partner in this process.

Take care,
Freya Schirmacher
MMW Principal