

NORTH MIANUS SCHOOL

309 Palmer Hill Road • Riverside, Connecticut 06878 • (203) 637-9730

Mrs. Angela Schmidt
Principal

Mrs. Sarah Obuchowski
Assistant Principal

September 2, 2020

Dear North Mianus School Community,

We hope this letter finds you healthy and enjoying your summer. This is sure to be an exciting and interesting year and Mrs. Obuchowski and I are so pleased to welcome you all! We have spent the summer preparing for the return of our amazing students and we are eagerly awaiting their arrival back in the building! Our goal is to work together with our families and staff to provide a safe, healthy, successful and rigorous learning experience for all of our students, whether we are in school, in a hybrid model or in a remote learning situation.

(Families participating in **The Remote Learning School** this year will receive information directly from the RLS and the information in this letter does not apply to them.)

Please take some time to read the information in this letter prior to the beginning of the school year.

The first day of school is September 9. It is a full day. **Arrival is between 8:30-8:45 and the day officially starts at 8:45.** (Kindergarten arrival for the first day only will be 9:45)

No parents or visitors will be permitted in the building at any time this year, including the first day. Staff will be stationed at the designated arrival areas to help ensure the students enter the building safely. Parents driving their children should remain in their car during arrival and dismissal. Please review the Parent Drop off and Pick Up Procedures in our slideshow you will be sent. It will also be posted to the website.

I also urge you to read the [Greenwich Public Schools School Reopening Plan](#) that Dr. Jones submitted to the state, as that is also the plan for North Mianus School. All GPS schools are following the district plan. In addition, please read the [Community FAQ](#) as it also has a great deal of information. Many parents' questions and concerns are addressed in this document.

There are however, some specific protocols and procedures that will be specific to North Mianus School that I am sharing with you here. We will also be including a parent slide show, which will provide you with information on arrival and dismissal procedures. We are doing all we can to ensure you feel confident and secure about coming to school on the first day!

It is very important to note that you be aware of the three strategies we will be implementing that are considered effective in mitigating the spread of the virus:

1. Wear a mask
2. Wash your hands
3. Watch your Distance (Minimum of 3 feet with a mask, six feet without a mask)

2019 National Blue Ribbon School

These strategies are an integral part of the GPS plan and we will focus on keeping our students safe to the greatest extent possible. Please be sure to be practicing the use of a mask at home to help your child adjust to our school environment.

Back to School Documents

Please be sure to review all back to school documents accessed via this link on our website (If the link does not work, please copy and paste the address into your browser):

<https://www.greenwickschools.org/north-mianus-school/school-information/back-to-school>

Arrival

Bus Drop Off

Bus routes and pick-up times are on the BTS page of the website.

Bussing will proceed as usual, however, students (wearing masks as required) will be required to fill the seats from the back to the front of the bus upon boarding. Siblings will need to sit together. Upon arrival, the front doors of the school will be open and staffed prior to any buses unloading. Students will exit the bus from the front to the back and proceed straight inside and head to their classes (rather than waiting outside together until 8:30).

Parent Drop Off

The **Drop Off and Pick Up Procedures** for those families driving to school are also posted on **the BTS website** (and attached).

Please plan to arrive between 8:30 and 8:45 so the arrivals are staggered. We will use the usual parent loop in the North Parking Lot. **Staff will be stationed outside to assist with arrival each day. We will make sure students get to the correct door!!**

Students in **Kindergarten** will proceed to the door closest to the gym office (sign on door) if you are in Mrs. Kistler or Mrs. Rutstein's class- Cohort A). If you are in Cohort B (Mrs. Harris and Ms. Lazarev's class), your child will enter the door nearest the stage.

Grade 1 will enter the building through the middle doors in the back of the building.

Grade 2 will enter through the recess doors by the second grade wing.

Grade 3 will enter the door through the entrance to their wing.

Grades 4 and 5 will walk around the back of the building to the kindergarten wing until they get to the front entrance. Teachers will be there to supervise them along the way. The fourth graders will go in the door to the left of the front door and fifth graders will enter through the door on the right side of the main doorway.

Dismissal – This year we are trying something different with dismissal to cut down on the amount of student's outdoors at once. We have not yet gotten our dismissal manager so once we do we will send out different directions.

Beginning at 3:05 students with a last name of A-LEG will be outside for parent pick up in grades K-5. Bus students will be dismissed at 3:08. Those students with names from LEH to Z will be called out at 3:15. Should you arrive early you will have to circle the parking lot to ensure those with students waiting can efficiently exit.

Until Dismissal Manager is in place we ask that you send a note to the teacher and call the office if students need to leave early. This will allow us to have them ready. Please come to the front door and ring the bell and we will send your child out to you

Bus dismissal

We will board the busses from the back to the front in the order of the stops. (Students with the furthest stops are at the back). This will help limit students walking past other students who are seated both when boarding and exiting.

Masks and Mask Breaks

As noted in the district plan all students must wear masks all day. Masks will be provided for anyone who forgets to bring their mask from home. We will provide mask breaks for all children throughout the day in a variety of ways. Some examples could include going outside for a read aloud or independent reading activity, snack, a movement break, or SEL activity. These will occur regularly throughout the day, as needed.

Cleaning and PPE supplies

All classrooms have sinks for hand washing with soap, and bottles of hand sanitizer. As noted by Dr. Jones, we will have extra masks at school for emergencies, but we are asking parents and teachers to provide their own masks that children (and adults) are comfortable wearing and easily identifiable.

Class lists

Class lists are being finalized and will be sent to parents as soon as possible. Thank you for your patience.

Class Placement

This year we had several different, additional requirements for creating our classes in order to be prepared for a potential switch from full in person school, to a hybrid model, to remote learning, should we need to.

Given the significant complexity of this process, no changes will be made to class lists.

School Calendar

The District's 2020-2021 school calendar is available on the Greenwich Public School's website.

- Please check the district calendar for all early release days, school holidays and other important dates.

The Handbook

Reading and returning the "Receipt of Handbook Form" is **required**. The receipt form

should be on our website soon and contains the information needed to answer many questions you may have.

Emergency Contact Information

Our home-school notification system known as **Parent Link** will continue to enable us to inform you of important events and emergencies through automated messaging. **Please inform the main office immediately of any changes to your personal contact information.**

Reporting Absences

Please call the main office to report any absences at 203-637-9730.

School Lunch

The price for school lunch, including milk, will be **\$3.70** per day. If a student prefers to bring lunch from home, milk may be purchased separately for \$0.75. Information on the optional prepaid lunch plan is available on our Back to School webpage. One to two classes will eat in the cafeteria, one in the art room and a fourth either in the classroom or outdoors on the picnic tables provided by our amazing PTA. Classes will take turns eating in each of the available settings. over the course of the year. The students will sit at six foot tables, one at each end. Students can bring lunch from home or buy a bagged lunch from the cafeteria. At this time, there will be one choice for the bagged lunch. We will keep you informed of what the choices are once we know them.

Recess

Outside recess will take place with students maintaining social distancing. The playground will not be open as we will be unable to safely sanitize them between each recess.

School Supplies

The 2020-2021 **School Supply List can be found on the NMS Back to School page.** The PTA has also provided us with drawstring bags to hold masks at recess and on mask breaks. We are also requesting each student bring in a beach or bath towel they can use To define social distance on the playground, where they may sit, read or eat lunch. It will come home once a week for laundering.

Website Information

To locate our NMS home page, please go to <http://www.greenwickschools.org/> for the district website. Click on SCHOOLS and then North Mianus School. Bookmark our page for easy access throughout the year! You will also find a PTA section where you can join the PTA and help support our school.

Additional Info

We are also requesting each student bring in a beach or bath towel they can use to define Social distance on the playground where they may sit, read or eat lunch. It will be sent home every Friday for laundering.

For younger students, please consider elastic waist pants to allow for independent toileting as much as possible.

Enjoy the last few days of summer vacation and we look forward to seeing your children soon!

We know these are challenging times and want you to know we are there if you need our help or support.

Sincerely,

Your Leadership Team
Angela Schmidt and Sarah Obuchowski