

August 20, 2021

Dear Parents and Families of North Mianus School,

We hope this letter finds you healthy and you have enjoyed your summer. This is sure to be an exciting year and Kathleen and I are pleased to welcome you all! We have spent the summer preparing our North Mianus campus and our second site, North Mianus Stamford Campus.

At North Mianus, we will be housing students in grades K-2 until we are able to bring all of our school back together this winter. Students in grades 3-5 will attend the North Mianus Stamford Campus located at 926 Newfield Avenue, Stamford, CT 06905.

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

The first day of school is Wednesday, September 1. It is a full day. At the North Mianus campus arrival is between 8:30 and 8:45 and school officially starts at 8:45. **Note: Kindergarten students should assemble on the blacktop (playground area) where their teacher will meet them at 9:45 on the first day. Parents will not accompany them into the school. Kindergarten teachers will continue to meet the students there for the first few days at the regular arrival time in the morning. In the afternoon they will be outside with the other students.**

For North Mianus Stamford Campus, students should arrive at North Mianus and board the school bus assigned to their class as listed below. Please note students should keep their masks on while on the bus and be sure to sit with someone in their class or a sibling.

No parents or visitors will be permitted in the buildings at this time, including on the first day. We are hopeful these restrictions will be lessened as the year progresses. There will be staff stationed at all entry points to help students enter the building safely. Parents driving students to school will enter through the Old Orchard car loop using the lane closest to the sidewalk (left lane). Buses going to the Stamford campus will be in the right lane. Parents can also choose to enter the parking lot (row nearest the car loop) and drop off students. Please drive up to the cross walk to ensure children are with an adult, who can cross them safely.

Please note: unlike previous years parent pick up will begin around 3:12. Parents should not line up before 3:10 so buses can come back from the Stamford campus without interference.

Students currently riding bus 1 and 2 will load those buses at the end of the day in the front of the building as before. An adult will bring students to the bus each day and pick them up in the morning. We still use the Dismissal Manager for your convenience. Gianna, our ASA will have information about this shortly.

North Mianus Stamford Campus:

Kathleen Ramirez, our new Assistant Principal will primarily be based at the Stamford Campus.

As you would have heard from our email updates, students in grades 3-5 will be located at the Old Trinity Catholic School at 926 Newfield Ave. Stamford 06905.

Kathleen will work with me to keep you updated weekly through the **PTA Preview**. As of this writing we do not yet have their phone number so please contact Kathleen by email should you have questions. She is listed as kathleen.smith-ramirez@greenwich.k12.ct.us on email,

We will have 8 shuttle buses at NM to ensure we can maintain cohorts whenever possible. [PLEASE COMPLETE THIS SURVEY TO INFORM US OF YOUR INTENT REGARDING BUS SERVICE TO STAMFORD CAMPUS](#)

The buses will pull into the Old Orchard parking loop and enter the right lane. **It will be very important that cars do not pull in around the curve in the car drop off lane because it will make it difficult for buses to pull in. This is very similar to what we did last year.**

Shuttles will arrive at **8:30** and depart at **8:45**. We will do all we can to stick to this schedule. If your child should miss the bus you will need to drop them off at the Stamford campus. In the afternoon buses will load at 2:50 and depart the Stamford campus at **2:55**. This will mean students will be back in time to catch Bus 1 and 2 if needed, go to OGRCC, or attend Afters classes when they begin.

Bus Routes to North Mianus Stamford Campus:

Our eight buses will be riding different routes to eliminate traffic. We have organized the buses by letters as we did last year. Please help your child become familiar with their letter so they always get on their bus.

1/A: 5C

2/B: 5La/5Le

3/C: 5W

4/D: 4L

5/E: 4M

6/F: 4D/4V

7/G: 3W/3Gi

8/H: 3A/3Ho/3Gr

North Mianus Campus:

I will be primarily located at North Mianus with grades K-2. This year we have moved our first grade back to the main campus and they will be housed in the third grade wing. Kathleen and I will visit both sites to ensure we maintain the idea of "one school". If you need to drop things off at the school please go to the gym doors on Old Orchard and ring the bell. We will come and assist you. **The same is true of North Mianus Stamford Campus. At that campus you will go to the front doors and ring the bell.**

Student Drop-Off:

Arrival to the building will be as follows: Signs will be up.

K will enter through the Gym doors and staff will be there to guide them to their rooms.

First grade will walk around to the side of the building past the gym doors and enter through the third grade double doors.

Second grade will enter through the Recess Door by the second grade wing (see map)

Mitigation Strategies:

I also want to reiterate that right now there are three strategies that are considered effective in mitigating the spread of the virus.

1. Wear a mask
2. Wash your hands
3. Watch your distance (min. of 3 ft. with a mask, 6 ft. without a mask)

Back to School Documents:

Please be sure to review all Back to School documents accessed via the link on our Back to School Page of the North Mianus website. Here is what you should find there:

Reminder: all required forms are to be turned in to the classroom teacher no later than SEPTEMBER 13, 2021.

- [School Handbook Acknowledgement Form \(REQUIRED\)](#)
- [Authorization for Medical Care Form \(REQUIRED\)](#)
- [Press Publicity Permission/Denial Form \(REQUIRED\)](#)
- [Internet Safety and Acceptable Use Opt OUT Form \(REQUIRED\)](#)

Additional forms to be returned if applicable

- [School lunch Debit Account Form \(if applicable\)](#)
- [Free or Reduced Lunch Form \(if applicable\)](#)
- [Student Accident Insurance \(if applicable\)](#)

Building Access:

Similar to last year, the school buildings will be limited to students and staff only. While we won't be able to have parents in at this time, we hope this will change as the year progresses. Meetings with teachers can be set up virtually or over the phone.

School Lunch:

Students may order lunch and breakfast at school or if students prefer to bring lunch from home, milk may be ordered separately. There is currently no charge for school lunch or breakfasts. We will continue to use the gym as our cafeteria space and students will also have table guards to shield them when their masks are off.

At the North Mianus Stamford Campus, we will use three classrooms as cafeterias and rotate for the 4th (and 5th section in 3rd grade) in the classroom. Where students are not 6 feet apart, they will use their shields.

Recess:

Recess will continue to be in cohort groups and students will be required to wear masks when on the playground equipment. We will ensure students have frequent mask breaks throughout the day.

School Supplies:

[The 2021-22 Supply List can be found on our website.](#) If you ordered your child's school supplies through the PTA, they will be ready on the first day of school. For all others, please bring supplies to school on the first day. There will be no sharing of supplies.

Dismissal Manager:

This year we will be using the **Fast Lane function of School Dismissal Manager.** You will be entering a personalized code as you arrive at school and it will alert your child and the teacher that you are here. The students will then proceed outside to the Parent Pick up line directly from their classroom, rather than gathering and waiting in lines outside. We are pleased to use this system

again. Last year there were some days where the system was down. If this is the case simply pull up and we will call the office to send your child out.

We will not be ready to implement Dismissal Manager on the first day.

Be on the lookout for the email to set up your School Dismissal Manager Account!!!

Cleaning and PPE Supplies:

Our classrooms have sinks for hand washing with soap and hand sanitizers (North Mianus Stamford Campus will have hand sanitizer in each classroom). As noted by Dr. Jones we will have extra masks at school for emergencies but we are asking parents and teachers to supply their own masks that children (and adults) are comfortable wearing and easily identifiable. We will also continue to use tri-fold desk guards and to sanitize tables after each lunch period.

Class Placements:

Creating class lists is an incredibly complex process. The teachers and specialists create the lists by considering balance in academic needs, diversity, numbers and social-emotional needs. Please be assured that the administrative team carefully reviewed the placement of each student. Due to the process involved **there will be no changes made to class lists**. Thank you for your support and understanding.

School Calendar:

The district's 2021-2022 school calendar is available on the Greenwich Public School's website.

- Orientation for all Kindergartners only will be held on Tuesday, August 31st in the kindergarten classrooms. Parents will remain outside while the students are visiting.

An email to kindergarten parents will be sent with further details.

- Orientation for all first and second grade students new to North Mianus as well as any students who were in the Remote School and are current first and second graders will also take place on August 31st. An email will be sent with further details.

Handbook

Reading and returning the receipt of Handbook form is required. This handbook contains invaluable information so please take the time to read it carefully.

Welcome New and Returning Staff (in new positions)

Kathleen Ramirez: Kathleen was a teacher at NM for eight years prior to becoming an Assistant Principal. She has worked at Glenville and North St. Schools in that capacity. Kathleen is one of the hardest working people I know. She is equally passionate about teaching and learning. I look forward to having her back at NM as our Assistant Principal at North Mianus Stamford Campus.

Dee Bauer has moved this year from fifth to second grade. Dee was an outstanding fifth grade teacher and well respected by both parents and students. She is very excited about moving to second grade and I know the team is eager to work with her.

Sheri McGowan joins the second grade team from first. She has looped with her class this year and I know she is very excited to watch her students grow this year.

Stephen Hohl was a student teacher with Mrs. Dunn last fall and went on to do some long term assignments at Old Greenwich and our second grade remote school. We are very excited to welcome him back to NM. Stephen was an eager and enthusiastic student teacher and received rave reviews during his time at OG and the Remote school.

Zachary Lederman taught fourth grade ALP in the remote school last year and has also worked in several long term assignments throughout the district. Zach is very eager to join our fifth grade team at the North Mianus Stamford campus.

Deanna Horton was a former professional assistant and student teacher at North Mianus. She has since taught in several long term assignments and we are very pleased to welcome her back. As our assistant I was impressed by her dedication and passion for the profession and her natural love of children. She will be a leave replacement for Valerie Gregory, who will return in January. Deanna will teach third grade.

Jessica Santiago is a native Spanish bi-lingual speaker who found her passion for teaching language during a long-term assignment at Saxe Middle School in New Canaan. Jessica recently completed her Masters of Science in Elementary education and is excited to join the North Mianus community.

Stacey Cronin is an educator with a love for the arts. She is very excited to be joining the art department at North Mianus and can't wait to meet all of our artists. She will be teaching at both North Mianus campuses.

Melanie Champion has taught music at Julian Curtiss School for the past few years and taught K-1 remote music last year. She is excited to welcome a baby girl any day now (due Sept 5th) and will return from maternity leave later in the school year. Her main instrument is the French horn and she also studies traditional West African drumming. Melanie will be part time at NMS teaching music.

Martin Wirt has taught general, vocal, and instrumental music in CT parochial schools for four years. He recently completed a master's program for music educators at the University of Bridgeport and is excited to be joining the fabulous Greenwich Public Schools community as he begins teaching music at North Mianus School this Fall! Martin will be covering Mrs. Melanie Champion's maternity leave.

Navneet Kaur Lamba worked in several assignments last year throughout the district from PreK to 8th grade. Nav is honored and eager to join our team as a Paraprofessional at NMS!

Amanda Northrop is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, who previously worked as the Head Social Worker and Coordinator of Family Services at Manhattan Star Academy, a private elementary school for students with special needs. Amanda is very excited to join the team at the North Mianus Stamford campus and to get to know all of the North Mianus students and families.

Joann D'Andrea will be joining the team at North Mianus Stamford as the School nurse. Joann has extensive experience in school nursing as she has been the full-time substitute nurse in the district for more than 10 years. She is familiar with all aspects of the district's policies and protocols. In

addition Mrs. D'Andrea lives in Greenwich, raised a family that attended public schools and currently has several members of her family teaching in the district.

Dan Taylor will be joining both campuses as our P.E. teacher along with Pat Prisanzano. Dan worked at New Lebanon School last year and is very excited to join North Mianus. A little known fact about Dan is that he is following in his mother's footsteps by joining our staff. His mother, Diane Taylor was our special education teacher for many years.

We will have a few other new staff members and will share them with you in the Preview as they come on board.

New Students, Returning Remote School Students, Stamford Campus and Kindergarten: We will be hosting a brief orientation for these students on August 31st. Please look for another email with details about this visit. Unfortunately we are unable to invite parents inside the buildings. We look forward to meeting your children.

Kathleen and I are very excited to begin the new school year and we look forward to working with your children. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us if we can assist you or answer your questions.

Sincerely,

Angela Schmidt

Principal

Kathleen Ramirez

Assistant Principal