



Shark Bytes



MRMS to host “5th grade / new student orientation” on August 28th

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Upcoming Events:

- Monday, August 28th 8:30—9:30 AM Orientation for incoming fifth graders and students new to Monomoy
- Tuesday, September 5th first day of school
- September 13th and 27th Early Dismissal; students dismissed at 2:40 PM
- Friday, September 15th 6:30—8:30 PM Fifth grade dance/social
- Thursday, September 28th 6:30—8:30 PM Curriculum night for parents
- October 24th and 26th Parent-Teacher conferences; students dismissed at 12:25

As we prepare for the reopening of school on September 5th, we want to make sure our incoming fifth graders—along with sixth and seventh graders who are new to Monomoy—enjoy a smooth transition to their new school.

To that end, we invite all fifth grade students and parents to attend our **“new student orientation” on Monday, August 28th from 8:30 AM to 9:30 AM.** This orientation is designed for all incoming fifth graders and their parents, along with any sixth or seventh graders (and their parents) who are new to Monomoy.

The morning promises a bit of something for everyone. Parents will meet with the administration, hear about the revisions we have made to our program and schedule, and learn about some of the unique educational experiences that

make our school so special.

Students will find out which team they are on, receive their schedules, find their lockers, and participate in a school “scavenger hunt”. They will also learn about the many clubs and sports we offer and meet key personnel like our school nurse, guidance counselor, school resource officer, and athletic director.

At least one parent/guardian should accompany his/her child for orientation, as parents will receive their Aspen usernames and passwords. An Aspen account enables parents to view grades online, to get a description of missing assignments, to track attendance, and to contact teachers via e-mail.

Monomoy follows a quarterly schedule, so an active Aspen account helps parents keep abreast of their child’s academ-



Summer afternoon, summer afternoon; to me those have always been the two most beautiful words in the English language.

~Henry James

ic progress between report cards. For households that cannot attend on August 28th, we will mail the orientation information.

The teachers and the administrative staff are excited about the new school year and we look forward to welcoming our fifth graders and our new students on August 28th! See you there!

School Council / MRMS Parent Group

The MRMS School Council is comprised of teachers, parents, and community members. If you are a parent or community member interested in serving on our School Council, please reach out to Mark Wilson, MRMS principal, at mwilson@monomoy.edu.

The School Council meets monthly. One of its most important functions is to develop and monitor the School Improvement Plan. Our first School Council meeting will take place on Monday, September 25th at 3:30 PM in the school library.

We also have a MRMS Parent Group. Our agendas focus on strengthening the school-community partnership. The group always meets directly after School Council—our first meeting is Sept. 25 at 4:30 PM. Please email Mark Wilson if you would like to help out!

A summary of summertime changes at Monomoy



A successful team is a group of many hands but of one mind.

Like a welcome summer rain, humor may suddenly cleanse and cool the earth, the air, and you.

- Langston Hughes



A perfect summer day is when the sun is shining, the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing, and the lawn mower is broken.

~James Dent

Since the close of school in June, Monomoy Regional Middle School has taken several steps to strengthen our educational program. Here is a summary of those changes.

We are a one-to-one Chromebook school.

The vision for Monomoy Regional School District's digital learning initiative is to have instruction drive the use and integration of technology into all content areas.

Through our school's "One-to-World" Chromebook initiative, MRMS will make learning more meaningful and relevant for our students; will better prepare our students for the challenges of college and their chosen career; will help our students become responsible digital citizens; and will enable our students to grow intellectually, personally, and creatively.

Through research into best practices regarding technology use in schools, the district identified the Google Chromebook and its G Suite (formerly called Google Apps for Education) as the best choices for achieving technology integration across all curricular areas.

Our long-term goal is to use the technology to create student-centered, project-based classrooms where student engagement, participation, and collaboration thrive. We also want to use the technology to differentiate instruction based on the needs of individual students, to strengthen communication among teachers, students, and parents, and to reduce the amount of printed materials distributed in our classrooms.

Thanks to the hard work of Jim Birchfield, our district's Director of Instructional Technology, and Katie Iernio, our district's Finance Director, the district has the financing to provide each of our students a Chromebook to use during their three years at MRMS. We will also provide each student with direct instruction on how to appropriately use the technology. We hope you share our excitement about this initiative!

We maintained our low class sizes.

Monomoy Middle School is justifiably proud of maintaining low class sizes in our core academic classes of math, ELA, science, and social studies. For the upcoming school year, our average class size will run at 19 students, although our grade 5 Unified Arts classes, grade 6 Foreign Language, grade 7 Physical Education, and grade 7 Advanced Math classes will run higher.

We teamed to support students at all grade levels.

Teaming provides consistency and collaborative support for students at all grade levels.

In fifth grade, pairs of teachers are teamed with forty or so students so that our core academic class sizes will run at 20-21 this year. The fifth grade teams this year will be:

Red River Team—Ms. Babb & Ms. Majka

Fox Hill Team—Ms. Hanna & Ms. Widegren

Tern Island Team—Mr. Quinn & Ms. Kane

Long Pond Team—Ms. Rutledge, Ms. Donovan, & Ms. Laferriere

In sixth grade, our core aca-

demical teachers (ELA, math, science, and geography) are also organized into teams. To support students with individualized learning needs, each team also has a special education teacher assigned to the team. Our sixth grade teams are:

Hawks Nest Team—Ms. Botsford (ELA), Ms. Driscoll (Math), Mr. Smith (Science), Mr. Viti (Geography), & Ms. Rice (Special Education).

Strong Island Team—Ms. Bourget (ELA), Ms. Reed (Math), Ms. Randall (Science), Mr. Malloy (Geography), & Ms. Tobin (Special Education).

The seventh grade follows the same model. Our seventh grade teams are:

Wychmere Harbor Team—Ms. Cortese (ELA), Ms. Forist (Science), Ms. Reuss (Social Studies), Ms. Estes (Math), & Ms. Davol (Special Education).

Herring River Team—Ms. Gallagher (ELA), Ms. Coy (Math), Ms. Gifford (Science), Mr. Sumner (Social Studies), & Ms. McDonnell (Special Education).

At all three grade levels, special education teachers and/or instructional assistants are assigned to help meet the needs of students with individualized education plans (IEPs).

We welcomed two educators to our Monomoy community.

We worked hard this summer to find and hire the best possible candidates to teach our students. Please see insert titled "new faces" for a short bio on each of our new staff members!

Tips and tools for a successful school year

The first day of school is quickly approaching. Here are a few things you can do BEFORE school opens to help with the transition.

* **Ease back into a routine**—a week or so before the first day, re-establish breakfast, dinner, and bedtime routines.

* **Designate a space for homework**—set up necessary school supplies in this space.

* **Select a spot for backpacks and lunch boxes**—routines help with organization.

Here are a few things you can do DURING THE FIRST FEW WEEKS of school to help students stay informed and organized:

*Mark your calendars with important school dates/information.

*Keep the family schedule clear while everyone gets used to the routine.

*Plan extra time in the mornings to adjust - pack lunches & backpacks at night.

*Establish an after school routine for going through school papers, homework, etc.

*Attend informational meetings, parent-teacher conferences, and open houses.

*Familiarize yourself with school personnel.

*Communicate questions or concerns with teachers, counselors, and/or administrators.

Tardy or Absent Students

If your child is going to be tardy or absent from school, please call the school at 508-945-5140 x1112 between 5:00 AM and 10:00 AM.

Our school nurse, Ms. Amy Sullivan, will record the absence. If we have not heard from a parent / guardian by 10:00 AM, the school will call you at home and/or your place of employment.

Please keep us apprised of any changes in your emergency contact information (telephone numbers, cell phone numbers, place of employment, address, etc.) as soon as they occur. This information is vital to the safety of your child and the efficient operation of the school.

School Security

All Monomoy exterior doors

are locked at 9:00 AM. Parents, guests, and tardy students must enter by the main office. Please ring the bell and announce your presence to the secretary. The secretary will unlock the right-hand door. Once you enter the building, please report to the main office.

Opening Day

On September 5th, school will reopen for the year. Parents who transport their children should NOT arrive before 7:30 AM, as there is no adult supervision to ensure student safety. Student drop-off between 7:30 and 8:15 is at the main entrance. After 8:15, please drive behind the building and drop your child off at the rear entrance to the cafeteria on the right side the building. Students should enter the cafeteria and remain there.

Buses will arrive between 8:20 AM and 8:35 AM. Upon arrival, bus students should report to the cafeteria.

A bell will ring at 8:50 AM, signaling the start of the school day. On opening day, all fifth grade students will report to the auditorium, all sixth grade students will report to the cafeteria, and all seventh grade students will report to the gym-

That beautiful season
the Summer!

Filled was the air with
a dreamy and magical
light;
and the landscape
Lay as if new created
in all the freshness of
childhood.

~ Henry Wadsworth
Longfellow

nasium. Sixth and seventh grade students will receive their schedules and be escorted by their homeroom teachers to homeroom. Fifth grade students will be greeted by their homeroom teachers and then escorted to homeroom.

Electronic Communication Devices

Once students enter the building, all personal electronic communication devices (cellphones, iPods, Kindles, etc.) should be switched off and stored in student lockers. During the school day, the only time students may turn on their personal devices is to accomplish a specific instructional purpose. Please respect this expectation, which has protected the integrity of our instructional time and reduced social media issues/conflicts.

School Day and Before/After School Activities

This fall marks the district's transition to new start times at all four schools.

The MRMS school day will begin and end with homeroom. Students should be in homeroom at 8:45 and they will be dismissed from homeroom at 3:15. **Students catching a**

ride to school by car should arrive no later than 8:35 AM.

For households wishing to drop their children off earlier than 8:35 AM, the school will open its doors to students at 7:30 AM with the school library open and staffed every day from 7:30 to 4:15. As there is no adult supervision before

7:30 AM, please do not drop your child off before that time.

We hope to offer a slate of engaging & enjoyable morning & afternoon clubs—please be on the lookout for our club offerings brochure, which we will publish later this summer to give students a few club options for each AM and PM.



Monomoy Regional School District

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Monomoy Regional School District

Fall sports / 7th grade medical requirements

Fall Sports News

This fall, Monomoy will offer the following interscholastic sports: boys soccer, girls soccer, field hockey, and—a new sport—cross country. For boys and girls soccer, we will field an A team and a B team. We also offer golf as a club sport. We are still in the process of hiring coaches for the fall season. Our district athletic director—Karen Guillmette—will be reaching out in the near future to share information on the coaching appointments, the practice and game schedules, and how to sign up for our interscholastic sport offerings.

The first day of practice will be held after school on Monday, September 11th. Fall ath-

letes will need to register through FamilyID, our on-line sign-up tool. Only student-athletes with a completed physical exam on file with our school nurse, Ms. Sullivan, will be allowed to participate. To be eligible for fall sports, the physical exam must have been completed on or after September 1, 2016.

Vaccinations required for 7th graders

Prior to entry into seventh grade, every child is required to receive 1 dose of Tdap, 2 doses of MMR, and 2 doses of Varicella by Massachusetts law. If your child recently received these vaccines as part of his/her annual physical exam, please forward a copy of the updated immunization record

to the nurse's office ASAP. You can also fax the record to us at 508-945-5110.

If your child has not received these vaccines, please schedule an appointment with your primary care physician to have this done before September 8th. **For health and safety reasons, the administration must exclude your child from school if we do not receive the necessary documentation.** However, no child whose parent or guardian states in writing that vaccination or immunization conflicts with his sincere religious beliefs shall be required to present an immunization certificate in order to be admitted to school. Medical exemptions are also allowed.



Don't miss the boat!