

Moonachie Public Schools

ROBERT L. CRAIG SCHOOL
20 WEST PARK STREET
MOONACHIE, NEW JERSEY 07074

JAMES KNIPPER
Superintendent/Principal
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OFFICE: (201) 641-5833 ext. 110
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August 6, 2021

Moonachie Families & Friends:

I hope that everyone's summer is going great! We hope that everyone is able to enjoy some family time, while staying safe and healthy. I want to share some updates with everyone as we prepare for the 2021-2022 School Year! There are many questions still left unanswered, as the Covid-19 climate is ever changing. This notification is meant to provide some information on what to expect this year. As local and state case rates can quickly change, as well as the NJ Department of Health's guidance, nothing is set in stone. Our hope is to have all answers to families by Thursday, August 26th. Even as of this writing, Governor Murphy is expected to provide updated guidance this afternoon, which we will carefully review and alter any approach accordingly.

NJDOE Requirement

School Districts must plan to provide, full-day, full-time, in-person instruction and operations, for the 2021-2022 school year.

Vaccination

School districts are encouraged to have a system in place to determine the vaccination status of students and staff, however, if a school district is unable to determine the vaccination status of students or staff, those individuals should be considered not fully vaccinated.

The Robert L. Craig School has a very high vaccination rate amongst our staff. Staff members are encouraged to inform us of their vaccination status, but this is NOT a requirement.

If your student is vaccinated, aged 12 and up, and you wish to inform us of their vaccination status, please e-mail Nurse Gallo at dgallo@moonachieschool.org. This is voluntary.

Individuals who have confirmed their vaccination status are not required to quarantine and are not required to be excluded from school following exposure to a confirmed Covid-19 case or suspected case.

Wearing of Masks

We are aware of the expected announcement by Governor Murphy this afternoon. As a result, the district will issue guidance regarding the wearing of masks on our next Community Update. Please note, per Federal Order, masks MUST be worn by all passengers on buses. If your child is being transported by our school buses, masks must be worn.

Maintaining Physical Distancing

Physical Distancing is an effective prevention strategy against Covid-19. In line with NJDOH guidelines, we are planning for everyone to maintain as much distance as possible, but never less than the current recommended distance of three-feet.

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Cohorting

Just as last year, students will remain in classroom/homeroom cohorts. Teachers will travel to classrooms, not students. Students in the same grade, residing in the same home, will be sectioned together.

Hygiene & Sanitation

Similar to last year, proper hand washing techniques will be reviewed with students and monitored. Hand sanitation stations will be utilized upon entrance to the building, entrance to the classroom, before and after eating, and after the usage of the restroom.

Also, just the same as last year, our custodial staff will maintain the proper sanitation of high touch points (door knobs, light switches, etc...) throughout the instructional day. Student work stations will be cleaned and sanitized at the conclusion of lunch. Classrooms will be fully cleaned and sanitized each evening.

Meals & Recess

We will continue to serve Lunch in the cohort classroom. Breakfast will continue to be sent home. Recess will be hosted outdoors whenever possible or in the cohort classroom on inclement weather days.

Ventilation

Just like last year, we will bring in as much fresh air as possible into the classrooms by having the windows open at all times. The delivery of clean air dilutes potential contaminants. Additionally, we continue to operate our ventilation systems with the upgraded Merv-13 filters, engineered to remove small particles from the air, including those causing Covid-19.

Entrance

We will utilize the MyMedBot symptom screener again this year. The questions will be simplified and realigned to current NJDOH guidelines for evaluating symptoms of Covid-19 each morning. If you are new to our district, Ms. Spitaleri from the Main Office will get you signed up before school starts. NJDOH guidelines no longer recommend temperature screening.

We will utilize ONE entrance this year. Drop off will occur at the gymnasium entrance. Drop off will begin at 8:10am. Homeroom will begin at 8:45am. If you drop off before 8:45am, the extra time will be utilized by classroom teachers for tutoring, small group work, quiet reading time, finishing homework, or providing extra time to make up missed work.

Dismissal

Our dismissal process will remain unchanged from last year. We are integrating more staff to help speed up the process and limit the length of our car line. If you can walk, we encourage you do so. Please maintain social distancing.

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Exclusion

Parents/Guardians should not send students to school when sick. For school settings, NJDOH currently recommends that students with the following symptoms be promptly isolated from others and excluded from school:

- At least TWO of the following symptoms: fever, chills, shivers, muscle aches, headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, congestion, or runny nose OR
- At least ONE of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new loss of taste or smell

The MyMedBot morning screening survey will mirror these recommendations.

We are still working on instructional procedures for when children are excluded from school. We will provide this guidance before school starts.

Response to Symptomatic Students & Staff

Should a student or staff experience symptoms during school, he/she will be isolated in the isolation room. Masks will be worn, 6-feet of physical distance will be maintained, and the individual will be appropriately supervised. Nurse Gallo will contact the parent/guardian for immediate pickup from school. Nurse Gallo will advise the family on next steps, based on current NJDOH recommendations.

Should a student or staff experience symptoms before coming to school, the individual should remain home. Nurse Gallo will contact the family to advise of next steps, based on current NJDOH recommendations.

Teacher Assignment Letters & Notifications

Teacher Assignment letters, schedules, and supply lists will be mailed out during the week of August 9th. Supply lists are also available on our website at: <https://www.moonachieschool.org/Page/3615>. Bussing/Transportation assignments and bus stop times will be provided in early September.

After School Programming

Our YMCA After School Program will be offered again this year, free of charge for grades 3-8, from 3:05pm – 6:00pm. A flyer will be sent home next week with class assignment letters.

New this year, we are excited to partner with the YMCA for a tuition based after school program for grades 1 & 2 from 3:05pm - 6:00pm. There is financial assistance available to lower the tuition cost. Information will be sent home next week with class assignment letters.

After School Tutoring

To help accelerate our student learning, due to Covid-19, we are excited to offer a 25-week after school tutoring program. Students will be targeted to be a part of this program based on performance data and teacher input. More information will be provided in September.

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Technology: 1 to 1 Initiative

We are excited to announce that our district is going 1 to 1 for devices while in school! K-3 students will be assigned an Apple Ipad (with keyboard case) and grades 4-8 will be assigned a Macbook. The devices will remain in school and will always be available to our students for instructional assignments. Delivery of the devices is expected in late August. We anticipate all new devices in our classrooms by the end of September.

Parent Portal for RealTime

We are excited to announce that the district has transitioned away from Genesis and to RealTime. RealTime offers a Parent Portal for all students. In the portal you can directly access your student's grades, communicate with your teacher, keep track of your student's attendance, and receive communications from the District! Information on how to activate your account and login will be provided in early September. It is our hope that the Parent Portal allows our parents/guardians to easily partner with our teachers.

Fall State Testing

The New Jersey DOE is expected to administer State Testing this Fall, titled 'Start Strong'. This state wide assessment will be for grades 4-8 in ELA & Math, and Grade 6 for Science. We are still waiting further information, in regard to this assessment administration.

Construction Projects & Renovations Update

We are having a busy Summer upgrading our school! The stage floor has been replaced and upgraded. Additionally, we are undergoing a roofing project that will help keep our building dry from leaks for decades to come.

Staffing Update

Ms. Siliva Raguseo, our Director of Student Services (CST), has accepted the position of High School Assistant Principal in Wood-Ridge. Ms. Raguseo has been shared with Wood-Ridge for the past 4-years. We wish Ms. Raguseo well and are excited to continue our partnership in her new role at the High School.

Ms. Paula Hill has been brought on to serve as the new Director of Student Services (CST). Ms. Hill is joining us with 14-years-experience in working with Students with Disabilities, managing IEPs, connecting families with Bergen County Services, and implementing effective behavior plans for students in school and at home. Her expertise and experience will help us better serve all students and families.

Additionally, we are adding two part-time Social Workers. These individuals will allow us to better serve the Social Emotional needs of our students, implement social groups, individual therapies, and offer family supports/trainings. More information, in regard to these additional supports will be provided in early September.

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Next Community Update

I know this is a lot of information. As the Delta variant continue to spread and new guidance is provided, we will alter our approach accordingly. The next Community Update, which will finalize our procedures for the school year, will be published on Thursday August 26th.

Virtual Town Hall

The school will host a virtual town hall on *Tuesday August 31st at 7:00pm* to answer any questions our families may have before starting school. A flyer, link, and call-in option will be published the week before.

Who To Contact

Should you have any reopening questions, please direct them to myself at: jknipper@moonachieschool.org.

Should you have any health related questions, please direct them to Nurse Gallo at:
dgallo@moonachieschool.org.

Should you have any new student registration information, please direct them to Ms. Alyssa Spitaleri at:
aspitaleri@moonachieschool.org

Should you have any class assignment questions, curriculum, or scheduling, please direct them to the Director of Curriculum & Instruction, Ms. Dana Genatt at: dgenatt@moonachieschool.org

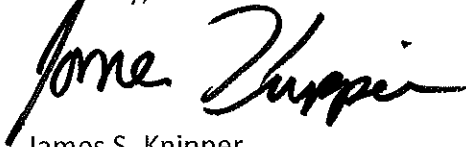
Should you have any transportation (bussing) questions, please direct them to Ms. Sandy Diaz at:
sdiaz@moonachieschool.org.

Should you have any technology questions, please direct them to Mr. Jason Diaz at:
admin@moonachieschool.org.

As always, you are free to call the main office at any time (201) 641-5833 and we will be happy to address any concerns or questions directly.

We hope everyone continues to have a great Summer Vacation!! We cannot wait to welcome everyone back this September. Stay well.

Sincerely,



James S. Knipper
Superintendent/Principal