Dear Monhagen and Twin Towers Middle School Families,

As September approaches, our faculty, staff, and leadership teams across both middle schools are focused on one shared priority: welcoming our scholars back to school with the structure, care, and support they need to thrive.

To ensure every middle school scholar gets off to a strong, confident start, both **Monhagen Middle School and Twin Towers Middle School** will implement a **staggered start schedule** for the opening days of school on **September 3rd and 4th**.

While this is a new model for our middle schools, it is a thoughtful, district-wide strategy based on a proven Middletown approach. For the past four years, Middletown High School has utilized a staggered start to give students a calm, focused transition into the new academic year. Expanding this system across our middle schools allows us to:

- **Give 6th Graders Space to Navigate:** Transitioning to middle school is a major milestone. Dedicated time in the building gives 6th graders the opportunity to locate their classrooms, meet their teachers, learn their daily schedules, and practice locker routines before the full student body arrives.
- **Provide Targeted Support for 7th & 8th Graders:** Staggering the schedule ensures our returning scholars receive direct, focused attention as they reconnect with educators, set goals, and transition smoothly into their next grade level.

Creating a safe, predictable, and supportive environment on Day 1 sets the foundation for our scholars' success throughout the entire school year.

Opening Days Schedule (September 3rd & 4th) is on the third page of this document. Additionally, the schedule can be found on each school's website and Parent Square.

Thank you for your continued partnership. If you have any questions regarding opening procedures, please feel free to contact the main office at either school. We are ready and eager to welcome our Middie scholars back!

In Partnership,

The Leadership Teams of Monhagen & Twin Towers Middle Schools

Enlarged City School District of Middletown

Monhagen Middle School

(845) 326-1700

Twin Towers Middle School

(845) 326- 1650

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A Few Things to Note

Cell Phone-Free Environment (Yondr)

Both Monhagen and Twin Towers Middle Schools will continue to be cell phone-free learning spaces through our Yondr program. This practice, now reinforced by New York State Education Department legislation, fosters higher engagement, stronger peer connections, and fewer distractions throughout the school day.

- **7th & 8th Grade Scholars:** Must bring their working Yondr pouch to school on their first day. Scholars without a working pouch will have their phone collected by administration at morning arrival and will be re-issued a pouch.
- **6th Grade Scholars:** Will receive their new Yondr pouches on Tuesday, September 8th, following the Labor Day holiday.

Personal Devices & Electronics

Personal electronic devices, including personal iPads, tablets, and gaming or Bluetooth headphones, are not permitted in the building. Scholars may only utilize district-issued technology for academic work.

Beverage Container Policy

For safety and to streamline our morning entrance checks, only **clear plastic water bottles** are allowed in school. Stainless steel or non-see-through metal tumblers/mugs cannot be brought into the building. Thank you for helping us maintain a safe environment!

Enhanced Safety & Arrival Protocols

Safety remains a top priority across both middle schools. We are enhancing our morning arrival procedures to maximize safety and efficiency. All scholars and bags will pass through detector screenings upon entering the building every morning.

Student ID Cards

All scholars will receive a new ID card for the 2026–2027 school year. Wearing IDs daily is a district expectation. This year, ID cards feature scannable barcodes to streamline cafeteria service, eliminating the need for scholars to manually type in ID numbers.

Counseling & Support Services

Beginning Monday, August 25th, school counselors will be available in both buildings to answer questions, assist with schedules, and support scholars prior to o*pening day.*

Transportation & Parent Portal

Bus route information is accessible via the Parent and Student Portal. If you need assistance setting up your account or are experiencing technical difficulties, please email **parent.portal@ecsdm.org**.

We are deeply committed to providing every middle school scholar in Middletown with a safe, structured, and engaging environment where they can grow and succeed. If you have any questions before opening day, please reach out to the main office at either Monhagen or Twin Towers. We are here to support your family every step of the way!

First Days of School - September 2026

Thursday September 3rd, 2026 In Person ONLY: (Grade 6)	
7:18 AM	**6th Grade** Walkers and Drop offs will enter the main lobby while our bused scholars will enter through the cafeteria.
7:24 - 7:39	Educators will take their 1st period x day classes to their classrooms for attendance and planned activities
7:42 – 8:23	Period 1
8:26 – 9:07	Period 2
9:10 – 9:51	Period 3
9:54 – 10:35	Period 4
10:38 – 11:19	Period 5
11:22 – 12:03	Period 6
12:06 – 12:47	Period 7
12:46 – 1:27	Period 8
1:31 – 2:03	Period 9
2:03-2:15	Educators will check with all students to make sure they are aware of the bus they are scheduled to take home based on the information provided by Mid-City
Dismissal 2:15	

Friday September 4th, 2026 In Person ONLY: (Grades 7 and 8)	
7:18 AM	**7th & 8th Grade** Walkers and Drop offs will enter the main lobby while our bused scholars will enter through the cafeteria.
7:24 - 7:39	Educators will take their 1st period y day classes to their classrooms for attendance and planned activities
7:42 – 8:23	Period 1
8:26 – 9:07	Period 2
9:10 – 9:51	Period 3
9:54 – 10:35	Period 4
10:38 – 11:19	Period 5
11:22 – 12:03	Period 6
12:06 – 12:47	Period 7
12:46 – 1:27	Period 8
1:31 – 2:03	Period 9
2:03-2:15	Educators will check with all students to make sure they are aware of the bus they are scheduled to take home based on the information provided by Mid-City
Dismissal 2:15	