



MAHOPAC HIGH SCHOOL

Every Child, Every Challenge, Every Day

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August 28, 2018

Welcome Back Letter to Parents and Students For the 2018-2019 School Year

Dear Parents and Students:

Welcome to the 2018 -2019 School Year!

I am very happy to welcome you all back to another school year at Mahopac High School. I am proud of the many accomplishments of our students and staff during the course of our 2017-2018 school year, and I look forward to the many new items to celebrate for the 2018-2019 school year.

If you are a new student to MHS, on behalf of our administration, faculty and staff, I offer you the warmest of welcomes!

We have been hard at work to upgrade our facilities and programming this summer. We have a newly painted cafeteria and hallways and LED and digital signage. We created a Common Study Area for our Upperclassmen with modernized flexible seating. In this area students will have the opportunity to work collaboratively or independently during school hours. We have completed a renovation of the lighting on our main turf field, and had new roofing installed over our gym areas.

We have a new instructional day, as well. Within this new schedule we were able to offer another instructional period, as well as time for additional academic support as needed. Our STEAM staff have been hard at work to take a fresh look into our engineering program. The teachers have done great work in aligning our offerings with the most competitive programs. We are thankful for the work, and we are ready to take the next step forward to propelling our STEAM Program into regional greatness.

Upon entering MHS you will find we have embarked on the branding of our school community. We have adopted four core values as the trademark of values MHS holds most important.

- **We are Resilient**
- **We are Compassionate**
- **We are Problem Solvers**
- **We are Critical Thinkers**

These core values will lead us as we prepare our students to being competitive during their post-secondary endeavors.

Blue Ribbon School of Excellence & America's Best High Schools

Assistant Principals

Matthew Calabro – ext. 11525
April Ljumić - ext.11521
Gary Ziegelhofer - ext. 11520

Principal – Matthew W. Lawrence, Ed.D. - ext. 11524

Athletic Director – John Augusta - ext. 11880

Special Education Administrator –

Catherine Sweeney Ph.D. – ext. 11640

Counselors

Anna Boyle – ext. 11603
Marianna Callagy – ext. 11602
Trina Capone – ext. 11606
Julie Cummins – ext. 11605
Dennis DiSanto – ext. 11607
Terry Lauchman – ext. 11604
Jaclyn Mittman – 11612
Ron Pollaro - ext. 11601

Please see below for significant changes:

Instructional Day

- Period 1 starts at 7:20 AM
- Period 9 ends at 2:02
- Extra help is available (with arrangement with the classroom teacher) from 2:05 - 2:45

Student Drop off and Pick Up Arrival of Students:

- MHS Main Entrance will be **closed** from **7:00 am-7:20 am** (student arrival) and again from **1:45 pm-2:10 pm** (student dismissal). This is to protect our students, as well as add deeper security to our daily operations.
- If you wish to drop off or pick up your student, you must enter through the **Mahopac Falls Entrance** and proceed to the top rear lot or guard booth to pick up your student.

Late Bus Options:

- 2:50 - Regular MS Dismissal - HS Students who need a bus will have to go to the MS lineup.
- 3:20 - HS Late Bus - Students wait in front of high school
- 3:40 - MS Late Bus - Students wait in front of the high school.

Attendance Office:

- Our Attendance Office is Room 109. All students *late to school* must report to the Attendance Office with a note from their guardians describing the reason for their tardiness.
- *Early Dismissal* at the request of the guardian will take place at the Attendance Office.
- If you are requesting that your student be dismissed early, please send him/her with a note. The student must report to the Attendance Office prior to their Early Dismissal for a pass. All requests must be verified by our Attendance Office Staff in order to allow the student to leave campus and to designate the absence as an excused absence.
- If your child is absent from school, you may dial the "**Attendance Hotline**" at 845-621-6633 to report the absence.
- When returning to school, please send your student with a note to be handed in at the Attendance Office. With the note, and an excusable absence as per NYS Attendance codes, we will give our student an excused absence.

MHS is a Comprehensive High School. In addition to providing a world class academic education ([Grade 9 Program of Studies](#), [Grade 10-12 Program of Studies](#)), we offer a robust [extracurricular](#) and [athletic](#) experience for your child.

We are partners in your child's educational experience and we want to work with you to develop your child to be the very best that they can be. As we start the school year, here are a few things to keep in mind:

- **Stay in contact with your child's teacher.** Establish a mode of preferred communication as soon as you are able to.
- **Keep tabs on your child's emotional well-being:** If your child is struggling socially, or emotionally, get help! We have a team of counselors, psychologists, social workers, and a student assistance counselor who are here to help.
- **Stay informed:** Read all of the memos that we send out. Keep an eye on the MHS website for updates. Review the information on the parent portal regularly.
- **Follow me on Twitter. Dr. Matt Lawrence @ PacHS_Principal**
- **Get involved:** Join the PTO and come to the monthly meetings. Join a booster club to support a team or a club. Come to Back to School Night! Click [here](#) for the PTO membership form.

- **Know where to go for help:** For classroom concerns, contact the teacher. For scheduling, planning, and programming questions, contact your child’s counselor. Click [here](#) for a more comprehensive list of things to do if your child needs extra help with classes.
- **Make school a priority:** Plan activities, appointments, vacations and events so they do not conflict with school. Make sure that academics come before athletics and curricular activities.
- **You are a parent – not a Superhero:** Know your limits. Know what you can handle comfortably, and what you need help with. We have a team of psychologists, social workers, counselors, a Resource Officer, and administrators who can help. We can be a great resource if you need parenting advice or assistance.
- **If your child is falling behind, get help fast:** As soon as your child shows signs of falling behind, intervene. Every teacher gives extra help after school. We also have other supports during and after school that can be accessed by contacting your child’s counselor.

Working together our students and your children will continue to thrive.

Here are a few things that you should know as we get the year underway.

Important Dates:

Our school calendar online has been updated through June 2019. It contains all of the major events that we have scheduled. It is available on the MHS website by clicking on the “School Calendar” link. MCSD calendars will be handed out to students and staff during the first week of school. Some important dates are as follows.

September 5	School Opens
September 6	Financial Aid Night
September 8	ACT Test Date
September 10-11	School Closed – Rosh Hashanah
September 12	PSAT Registration Begins
September 19	School Closed – Yom Kippur
September 21	PSAT Registration Ends
September 25	Site Team 5:30 pm
September 25	PTO Mtg. 7 pm
September 27	Mahopac University, 7 pm
September 28	Homecoming Game
October 2	Underclassmen Photo Retakes/Make-ups
October 4	HS Back to School Night, 7 pm
October 4	Health Fair, 6:30
October 5	Interim Period 1 Ends
October 6	SAT Test Date
October 8	School Closed – Columbus Day

***Special Homeroom Schedule for September 5th**

Period	Time
Special Homeroom (located in Period 1 class) Tech Bus at 7:30	7:20-7:53
1	7:56-8:34
2	8:37-9:15
3 Tech Bus at 9:30	9:18-9:56
4	9:59-10:37
5	10:40-11:18
6 Tech Bus at 11:50	11:21-11:59
7	12:02-12:40
8	12:43-1:21
9	1:24-2:02
10 Extra Help	2:05-2:45

This is a time that your child’s homeroom teacher (same as period 1 teacher) will review important policies and procedures within the school. Further, the Superintendent and school administration will meet each grade to discuss the “Mahopac Way - Our Culture and Community at MHS”. Students will receive their final schedules in Special Homeroom

Students, please bring your Chromebooks to school and be sure that they are charged.

I am enthused at the start of a new school year. I look forward to meeting you at one of our many events. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's assistant principal or school counselor with any questions.

Warm Regards,



Matthew W. Lawrence, Ed.D., Principal

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