



# **Manalapan-Englishtown Middle School**

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February 3, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians:

It is probably not hyperbole to say this has been one of the most difficult school years any of us can recall. I see it with my own children and I see it with our students here at MEMS. As we begin the start of a new semester it is important for us to keep in mind we are only halfway through this school year and we still have much to accomplish.

As we start the third marking period we ask that parents and students keep in mind the following:

- Attendance matters! In both the hybrid and virtual world. For both safety and academic purposes we still track the attendance of students. If you would like to request virtual instruction or a return to hybrid instruction for your child, reach out to your grade level assistant principal before keeping your child home/sending them to school.
- Please remember that feedback loop/office hours are required. Teachers have shared office hour days/times with their students.
- Student responsibility. As we prepare the students for high school they need to understand and continue to develop personal responsibility. We know this year has been both academically and socially challenging for students. Our staff will always be available for any assistance our students need, however students are responsible for keeping track of and making up any outstanding work they may have.
- Students who fail core classes (Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies) may be required to attend summer school at parent expense. If you have concerns about your child's progress please reach out to your child's teachers to discuss them.
- Create an office area for virtual learning. Conducting a Google Meet from your bed or video game chair is not conducive for learning. We recommend students keep their cameras on at all times. Have your child/children place their phones in another room and make sure there is no TV on in the background while they are working.
- The social emotional health of our students is something that we take very seriously, particularly in these challenging times. Mrs. Goldsmith, our school counselor, is available for anyone who needs guidance. She can be reached via email at [rgoldsmith@mersnj.us](mailto:rgoldsmith@mersnj.us)

- With the change from 2nd Marking Period to 3rd Marking Period, students who had Social Studies will be transitioning to Science and students who had Science will be moving to Social Studies. All Science materials are 100% online. To reduce the need for virtual pick-up, all Social Studies materials are also now 100% electronic.
- If your child is virtual, please return their Social Studies textbook to the school between February 9th and February 12th between the hours of 8 am and 11:00 am or 12 pm and 2 pm.

Finally, it is vitally important that we all work together to help keep MEMS safe and open. We are very proud that our school has been able to remain open for our students. Maintaining our school's safety can only occur through a community effort. Please keep your child (children) home if they are sick and notify our school nurse at 732-786-2650 ext. 8306 or [gennabanafato@mersnj.us](mailto:gennabanafato@mersnj.us) if your child will be absent from school for any of the following reasons:

- Your child is a positive COVID-19 case or a suspected case.
- Your child is a close contact of a COVID-19 case or a suspected case.
- Your child has recently traveled out of the state or country.
- If anyone in your immediate household is sick or has tested positive for COVID.

Thank you,

*Michael Fiorillo*

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