

Update 8.28.20

Good Afternoon,

Well, we are a weekend away from the first day of school. Do you remember your first day of school? I do. There were tears—not mine, my mom cried like a baby. You would've thought we were never going to see each other again; I mean like forever. I remember giving my mom a big hug and off I went to join my class. What a fabulous day I had. It's always been that way for me and that's part of the reason why I love school so much even today. The first day of school holds so many promises for children. Now, I have the honor of fulfilling some of those promises as a school administrator.



Throughout the summer, I have spoken to or communicated by email with hundreds of students and parents about the 2020-2021 school year. I have, through my updates and email communications, attempted to describe how and why this opening of schools is like no other we have experienced. I hope that my candid and sometimes amusing anecdotes have given you a reason to read on and to feel comfortable about what we plan to do together this year. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Please remember that our school begins on August 31st and 7:20 AM in first period. Students must log into the student portal to see their classes. Hopefully, your child has done this already. If not, do it now and I mean right now. Stop reading, find your child, fire up the computer and login because unless and until that happens, nothing else will. Monday will be difficult, at best so you don't need additional problems, particularly those your child could have, should have dealt with before today.

I have included an opening of school presentation for parents in this update. Please take time to view it. It's short, but informative. I promise. I have also included a document that outlines how you will submit a picture of your child so we may produce an identification (ID) badge for him/her. We will upload the picture into the electronic grade book so teachers will be able to identify their students. Additionally, I have included information on the following topics for your perusal:

- ✚ Typical MSO Day
- ✚ Preventing Youth Suicide
- ✚ Cyberbullying for Students and Parents
- ✚ How to Stay Connected
- ✚ Lunch and Learn Program
- ✚ Frequently Asked Questions about the Opening of Schools

There is no doubt that Monday will be exciting, perhaps a bit frustrating, and monumental. This is the first time we will engage approximately 500,000 people in synchronous distance learning at once. So, if problems occur, and they likely will, remember we are all in this together. Be patient. There is nothing we can't accomplish when we set our collective mind on a problem. Hey, if you need proof. Look at what we have accomplished with COVID-19. Infection and hospitalization rates continue to decline and if we

all continue to do our part, students could be physically back in school sooner than later. Wouldn't that be nice for all of us.

Keep in mind that although we cannot interact within the same physical space, we certainly can within cyber space. Reach out to any of us for help by using our [staff directory](#). Your child's teacher is your primary contact for all academic questions and concerns. Our faculty will respond to requests within 48 hours, excluding weekends. Also visit our [website](#) often for information and updates. It should be one of your favorites; it certainly is ours.

Until next time, keep that mask on, stay six feet away from others, avoid crowds and wash your hands frequently. Oh, don't forget to smile; it really does help.

Bye for now.

Matthew Welker

You can view "Opening of School Presentation 8.28.20.mp4" at:

<https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:a7b4ce88-c269-4d34-8070-978bac1ecbb2>

You can view "Typical MSO Day.pdf" at:

<https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:827fc2ab-0251-41b2-887a-f48d8c6116ad>

You can view "Student Pictures 8.27.20.pdf" at:

<https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:aac9480b-f7b2-4a3a-b456-682fd433cf6f>

You can view "Stay_Connected_Flyer_2020-Eng.pdf" at:

<https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:98edbd1b-348d-40b4-a73c-18301dc95a50>

You can view "Cyberbullying-Middle-High_School.pdf" at:

<https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:794e7b9c-59ff-447c-bc78-ca1ea866500f>

You can view "Cyberbullying-Parents.pdf" at:

<https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:a17bc517-d68f-4ccb-af5e-67d7bd8e2112>

You can view "Free_and_Reduced_Lunch_Application_Flyer.pdf" at:

<https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:df3e2c3e-499c-49f5-98b3-6d7660057f16>

You can view "Lunch & Learn Program 8.24.pdf" at:

<https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:ceec1346-a490-406e-b573-e517f29bffa>

You can view "Opening of School FAQs 8.28.20.pdf" at:

<https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:6779bad0-eef3-40b7-847e-4e2f4e3dfd1b>

You can view "Preventing_Youth_Suicide.pdf" at:

<https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:5e4951f6-6bda-4044-ab59-95fe1035954b>