

# MILLWOOD HIGH SCHOOL



Thursday, September 2, 2021

Dear Millwood High School families:

Welcome to a new school year. We are looking forward to the arrival of our students on **Tuesday, September 7, 2021** and hope that all members of our Millwood High School community enjoyed the summer months.

We will follow the Back to School Plan 2021 and take our direction from the office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health. Students are reminded that we will follow the enhanced public health measures to ensure everyone's safety; mask-wearing on the school busses and inside the building remains a requirement. Our school will provide students with a reusable mask on opening day.

More details about the provincial Back to School Plan 2021 can be found by accessing <https://novascotia.ca/news/release/?id=20210823006> This plan has been also been posted on our school website <https://mlh.hrce.ca/>

Students are asked to check their PowerSchool accounts by Monday, September 6th to find their schedules. This will help to prepare them for Tuesday morning when they will go directly to their first scheduled class when the bell rings at 9:10am.

Each class block is 75 minutes long, and students can access their entire schedule once they log into PowerSchool.

The following information points are included to assist families in preparation for the first day of school:

- Bell Schedule and other important school-related updates are posted on Millwood High School's web site <https://mlh.hrce.ca/>
- Parent Portal Access in PowerSchool: Parents and guardians are advised that their PowerSchool accounts have to be re-set because updates occurred over the summer. You are reminded to check your email inbox dated August 31<sup>st</sup> to find the email instructions from HRCE outlining how to re-set your account. The student accounts remain unchanged.
- Student fees: We will not be collecting fees from students at this time.
- Supplies: Students should arrive on the first day of school with a binder, paper, pen, and pencil. They will then receive information from their teachers about specific course supplies that might be needed.

- Arrival in the morning: Students should not arrive on school property before 8:55am each day unless they are meeting a teacher or coach.
- Cafeteria: Food service will resume on September 20<sup>th</sup> with Chartwells continuing as the service provider. In the meantime, students are welcome to use the cafeteria space to eat their lunches.
- Chromebooks: All students will be assigned a Chromebook and charging cord. They will be responsible for taking the Chromebook to and from class each day. They will also be required to take it home each day to charge it in preparation for their classes.
- Lockers: Students who wish to use a locker will have one assigned to them during the first week of school. The locker-assignment process will take place at lunch starting with grade 9s on the first day of school. Students are asked to provide their own lock.
- Athletics: Team tryouts will begin shortly after the new school year begins, and students are reminded to look at the Athletics tab on our school website for more information. Our Athletic Director is Ms. Dale.
- Course changes: Students requesting course changes are required to email their respective School Counsellor.
  - Ms. Coffin for students with surnames A to L [mcoffin@hrce.ca](mailto:mcoffin@hrce.ca)
  - Ms. Lovett for students with surnames M to Z [lovettk@hrce.ca](mailto:lovettk@hrce.ca)

Parents and guardians are asked to contact their child's School Counsellor with specific questions about course changes. The last day to make a change is on Friday, September 10<sup>th</sup>. Not all requests can be accommodated, and changes to schedules will be reflected in PowerSchool after updates occur.

- Communication between parents/guardians and teachers: If parents and guardians have questions or concerns, they are asked to contact the subject teacher first. There is a staff directory on the school webpage where email addresses are listed. Please allow two business days for staff members to respond to messages.
- Emergency Preparedness Planning: As in previous years, we are required to hold practice drills at designated times from September through June. This emergency preparedness includes hold and secure drills, lockdown drills and fire drills. The first month of school will include each of these drills. We rely on the assistance of our RCMP Liaison Officer when conducting the hold and secure drill and the lockdown drill.

There will be a fire drill three times during Semester One (September, October and November). During the week of September 20 to 24 we will have a lockdown drill, and during the week of September 27 to October 1, we will have a hold and secure drill.

- Student photos: Calnen Photography will be here on Thursday, September 9<sup>th</sup> to take student pictures. All ordering and payment is handled by Calnen, and students will be provided with a website address for online ordering. Picture retake day will be on Friday, October 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Curriculum Night: Our school will follow a "virtual format" again this year for Curriculum Night. This means that on the evening of September 23<sup>rd</sup>, you will be able to access an online

presentation from your child's teachers. These presentations will be available on our website for your reference at a time convenient to you.

- Bussing information: Parents and guardians are encouraged to activate their BusPlanner Parent Portal. Please refer to this link for more instructions <https://www.hrce.ca/about-our-schools/student-transportation>
- End-of-day parking lot: Due to the number of school buses that park in front of our building at the end of each school day, we ask parents and guardians not to park there to wait for their child. We appreciate your cooperation in our efforts to manage the departure of busses at the end of the school day.

We are excited to meet our incoming grade 9s and extend a "welcome back" to our returning students. Many new families have moved into our neighbourhood over the summer, and we extend a special welcome to those students.

Thank you.  
MHS Admin Team