Maryvale Middle School

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August 7, 2026

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope that you are enjoying your summer. Before we know it, summer will be coming to an end and our children will be heading back to school. I would first like to inform you about a few important dates and changes for 2026-27.

- **6th Grade Orientation – Wednesday, September 2nd, 2026 from 4-5:30 pm.** This is for students and parents. 6th grade students will have access to their lockers on this day only.
- **7th and 8th Grade Open House - Wednesday, September 2nd from 5:45-7:00 pm.** Parents will have the opportunity to walk their student's schedule and meet their teachers. Students will also have time to set up their lockers and are not required to bring in all their supplies the first week of school.
- **First day of student attendance – Tuesday, September 8th.** We will extend homeroom on the first day to allow more time for students to set up their lockers and become acquainted with their schedules.
- Students entering 6th and 7th grade are required to have certain immunizations prior to the start of school. Students entering 6th grade and are age 11 or older must receive a Tdap immunization and all 7th (and 12th) grade students must be vaccinated against meningococcal disease. Please submit proof of immunization to the main office prior to the start of school. Parents of 7th grade students must also submit updated physicals.
- We will open the doors for drop-offs at **7:10 am**. (NOTE: This is later than last year. This was changed due to bus route changes and staffing.)
- **Homeroom starts at 7:25 am**. This means that students are expected to be in their seats at 7:25 am.
- **Students arriving after 7:25 am must enter through the main office.** Please note that the front bus loop is closed to traffic until 9:00 am. Therefore, students that are late must be dropped off at either end of the building and walk to the main entrance. **Please do not drive in the front bus loop while buses are loading and unloading students. This creates a significant safety concern for our children.**
- **The end of the school day will be 2:10 pm**.
- All Maryvale students are entitled to a free breakfast and lunch.

- There will be late buses for after school programs this year: the Middle School Late bus departs at **2:45 pm.** Late buses require a pass which students will receive from the faculty member they stayed with.
- **Walker drop off/pickup is located behind the middle school.**
- If your child does not ride the bus please drop them off in the **back** of the middle school between **7:10 and 7:24.** There is NO supervision of students prior to 7:10.
- "Away for the Day" cell phone & personal electronic policy has been updated to conform with NYS law. Please note that this includes bluetooth headphones, smart/VR glasses, and smart watches.
- Water will be the only drink that students can bring to class. Any other drinks may only be consumed in the cafeteria. Energy drinks will not be permitted in the middle school at any time. Water bottles must be able to be closed to prevent spillage.
- **June exam days (6/15-6/24) are required attendance days. If a student is absent on the day of an exam, they will receive a score of zero (0) and will most likely fail the course.**

The school day will begin at 7:25 am and end at 2:10 pm. This will allow students more time to get breakfast prior to homeroom. Ensuring that students are in school on time, have an opportunity to decompress and get ready for the day, will have a positive impact on their mental health and academic success.

The Maryvale School District is using ParentSquare for classroom communication, primarily with email, text and app notifications. ParentSquare automatically generates an account for each parent, using their email address and phone number that is on file within eSchool. We encourage parents/guardians to access their accounts so they can download the mobile app and update their preferences on when and how they are notified. Please see the Parents tab on the District website for more information.

This year we again will focus on the importance of attendance with our assistant principal, Mrs. Fowler-Herdlien taking the lead. Student attendance is one of the leading factors in student dropouts. Research has shown that missing 20 days in a school year, or as few as 2 days per month reduces the chances of graduating on time by as much as 50%. Prior to last year, we have focused primarily on reactionary measures as a means of improving attendance. For example, parent conferences, disciplinary and academic consequences and even referrals to Child Protective Services (CPS). Although these methods will still be used, Mrs. Fowler-Herdlein, will be working on incentives and rewards for students with good regular attendance. Please help us make this a priority at home as well as at school so that we can build good habits in our children that will help them in their careers later in life. For more information, please see our Attendance Policy for more information.

Students are encouraged to participate in extracurricular activities. We have many clubs, intramurals and sports available to our middle school students. Additionally**, teachers are available for extra help until 2:45**. Students that are not staying with a teacher or coach are expected to leave the building at 2:10. For students that participate in extracurricular activities, there will be late buses to take students home. The late bus routes are posted on the Middle School webpage. Walkers can be picked up in the back of the middle school. All students who are staying after school are responsible for informing their parents of their plans to stay for extracurricular activities.

Effective September 1st, student **schedules** will be accessible through our Parent Portal and Student Portal. *Parent Portal* is located on our website and allows you to monitor your child's academic progress. Please use this daily as needed. For more information or to set up an account, please see the District website.

A brief reminder of appropriate **school attire** as you shop for clothes for the upcoming school year. Please be sure your child's wardrobe adheres to the District Dress Code as approved by the Board of Education. Please review our Code of Conduct on our website for more specific information on our dress code policy.

Please encourage your child to do their best, and emphasize the importance of getting off to a strong start and seeking help as soon as possible. With a few exceptions, all teachers are available after school from 2:10-2:45, Monday through Friday. Please have your student make arrangements to stay to get help as needed. Please be proactive and contact teachers and/or Student Services any time you have a concern or question!

For additional information on our programs and services offered at Maryvale Middle School, please refer to our parent handbook.

I look forward to the new school year and the continued growth and success of all of our students.

Sincerely,



Peter Frank
Principal, Maryvale Middle School