

*North Wildwood School District
Margaret Mace School
Office of the Superintendent
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August 28, 2020

Dear Families,

The spring of 2020 has challenged all the staff and students to find a new way of learning and a new way of staying connected. I genuinely believe that the staff and students did a fantastic job shifting from in-person learning to remote learning with very short notice. We are looking forward to having students back in the building at Margaret Mace School. Our first day of school for students will be Wednesday, September 9, 2020. September 9-September 11 will be early dismissal days for students. Students will be dismissed at 12:15 each day for the first week. Lunch on the early dismissal days will be grab-and-go style lunch.

Our goal this school year is to address students' academic, social, and emotional needs. We believe that we can do this best with students back in the building five days a week. Students will return to school after a jam-packed and unprecedented summer. I have been working closely with the Cape May County Department of Education and Cape May County Department of Health to provide a safe environment for students and staff. The staff at the school have developed a very comprehensive "Return to Learning" plan. The full plan can be found on our website at www.mmace.com. Below are significant aspects of the plan.

Dress Code: Our Board approved dress code requires all students and staff to wear masks while in the school building. Students can remove masks during physical education, music class, meal times, recess, and during structured mask breaks. The best type of masks are two-ply cotton masks or disposable surgical masks. Students can wear their mask or a district-provided mask.

Social Distancing: Extra furniture has been removed from the classrooms. Desks have been spread out and are all facing the same direction. Hallways will be one-way when possible. Stairways will follow one direction. Students in grades 6-8 will not be switching classes this year. Students will remain in the room for core academic subjects, and teachers will move. Students will change classes for related art (specials) classes.

Lockers: Students will not be using lockers.

Eating: Students will not be eating in the cafeteria to start the school year. Students can eat breakfast and lunch in their classrooms. All meals will need to be pre-ordered. All students will have recess before or after lunch.

Screening: In an earlier letter, I said screening starts at home. Let me clarify. We are not asking parents to test students or take temperatures. We are asking you to evaluate your child for illness. If your child has any of the following symptoms, do not send him or her to school.

- Fever or chills
- New Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Unusual fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headaches
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Temperatures of students will be taken before students enter the building. Any student who has any symptoms will be sent home. We will not be evaluating students for COVID 19. Students with symptoms will be sent to an isolation room until they can be picked up by a parent or guardian.

Extracurricular activities: There will be no fall sports during this school year. The league will reevaluate the circumstances before the start of the winter sports season. We will not have after school activities for September. We will look to bring back afterschool activities as the school year progresses.

Exposure: The Department of Health defines exposure as being with a positive person for longer than ten minutes, within six feet and without a mask. Because we will be wearing masks and taking universal precautions, we do not expect exposure at school.

Data Decision Making: I will remain in contact with the Department of Health to evaluate the number of positive cases and transmission rates in North Wildwood and Cape May County. The State of New Jersey has determined that the Southeast Region of the State is a “Low Risk” during the week ending on August 22, 2020. Our reopening plan will be continually reevaluated based on the current science and data available.

Entering and exiting the building: Students will not enter or exit the building as they have done in the past. With the goal of social distancing, we have revised our entrance and exit plan.

- Students in grades 1-3 will enter at the 12th Ave. Rear entrance.
- Students in grades 5, 8, and Mr. McCabe’s homeroom will enter at the 12th Ave. front entrance

- Students in grades PK and K will enter at the 13th Ave. rear entrance
- Students in grades 4, 7 and Mrs. Andre's homeroom will enter at the 13th Ave. front entrance

If you have a child walking home with a younger sibling, please contact Mrs. Donlan in the main office for specific arrangements.

We look forward to the exciting start of the school year. I thank you for all your support in helping to keep our school community safe and healthy. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Sincerely,

Christopher Armstrong
Superintendent
North Wildwood