



Monmouth Junction School

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Dr. Maribeth Edmunds, Principal

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August 21, 2020

Back to School Welcome Letter

Dear Monmouth Junction Families,

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year. I'm sure you'll agree that this will be the most unusual start to any school year ever ... whether it's virtual, hybrid, or in-person!

Despite the difficult circumstances that the pandemic poses, there are silver linings. We just need to find them. One is that our children can learn anytime, anywhere. Another is that our teachers can teach anytime, anywhere. Distance learning has become an essential skill in 21st century schools. This ability will serve students well as they move forward with their studies and eventually enter the world of work.

At this time, our teachers are preparing welcome messages for your children so they are ready to begin on September 8th. My letter, therefore, is intended to send some basic information so you are ready for remote learning on your end.

Here are some important dates:

- August 25th: Placement letters will be available in Genesis for grades 1 through 5.
- August 31st: Placement letters will be available in Genesis for kindergarten.
- September 8th: First Day Remote Learning: Schedules will come from teachers.
- September 11th: Virtual Ice Cream Social: Details will come from the MJ PTO.
- September 17th: Virtual Back to School Night.

NOTE: Technology Check

It will be so important to test your technology for learning at home prior to September 8th. Be sure that you have a stable Internet connection, know how to login to the Chrome browser, bookmark the school's websites and links, and become familiar with the links provided by teachers. They will help students with passwords and usernames that may be needed for Google accounts. Remind your child to never share their passwords with others and be a good digital citizen.

New Staff Members:

I want to welcome new staff members to Monmouth Junction. First, Mrs. Nancy Shearer has joined our office staff as the Genesis secretary. She is replacing Mrs. Gullo who retired this summer. Additionally, we have a new librarian. Mrs. Bercaw is joining us, replacing Mrs. Kish who transferred to

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Constable School. Also, I want to welcome our newest member to the school, Ms. Kimberly Chiu. She will be teaching second grade. Lastly, I want to mention that Mrs. Ann Smoke, who worked at Monmouth Junction as a paraprofessional for many years, retired this summer as well. We are so grateful to Mrs. Smoke and Mrs. Gullo for their many years of dedicated service.

Absences:

If your child is going to be absent, the school must be notified. You may call the office voicemail at any time or call the office after 8:00 a.m. to report your child absent. You may also mark your child absent in Genesis using the Parent Portal. Please do not use the email to report your child absent.

If you do not call or mark your child absent in Genesis, the office will call to locate your child usually by 10:00 a.m. using your emergency contact numbers.

Introduction to Dr. Edmunds:

If you haven't already viewed my video where I introduce myself, you may find it at this link on Monmouth Junction School's website:

[MJ Website: Meet Dr. Edmunds](#)

[MJ Website: School Leadership Dr. Edmunds](#)

Also, from time to time, I will create and send brief informational videos for students and families. You can find a recent one here on our Facebook page:

[Wearing a Mask for Protection](#)

I feel so privileged to be the principal of Monmouth Junction School and look forward to the day when we can gather in person. Our staff members are outstanding, and I know they will do a fabulous job with our students.

However unusual this year may be, we will focus on our mission to ensure that students learn in environments that are safe, respectful, nurturing, and supportive. Here's to a meaningful, rewarding, and memorable year.

Regards,

Dr. Maribeth Edmunds
Principal

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