



“Unlocking the Potential in ALL Students”

Office of Teaching & Learning

Dr. Magda Parvey, Chief Academic Officer

311 Hunting Hill Avenue, Middletown, CT 06457 Telephone: (860) 638-1430
Email: parveym@mpsct.org Web: www.middletownschools.org

Dear Middletown Families,

We are looking forward to welcoming your child(ren) back to Middletown Public Schools. The 2020-2021 school year will begin on Thursday, September 3, 2020 for all students in all cohorts. As I shared in my letter to the community on August 14, 2020, Middletown Public Schools will begin the 2020-2021 academic year in a hybrid model. Hybrid learning combines face-to-face and online teaching into one cohesive experience for learners. Approximately half of the class sessions will be in school, while the other half will have students working online remotely. A hybrid model offers our youngsters unique learning opportunities and allows students to benefit from two formats. Personalization, engagement and critical thinking are the goals we seek in this learning environment that combines the best aspects of in-person and online teaching.

Middletown Public Schools are committed to providing a high-quality education for all students that focuses on social-emotional learning, equity, high academic expectations, and prepares each student for the future. Parents will receive student schedules and/or flow of the day by Wednesday, September 2, 2020, if you have not received them already. Students participating in Cohort C will receive communication directly from his/her classroom teacher(s) providing them with their daily schedule and how to access online communication. Elementary students will have an opportunity to:

- Receive live virtual instruction from their teacher a minimum of 4 days a week. Direct “live” and/or synchronized instructional time will vary for students in grades Pre-K to 5.
- Join their classmates for class meetings and social-emotional learning. Engage in small groups for instruction as needed.
- Work independently on assignments and projects.
- Take movement breaks and screen breaks throughout the day.
- Participate in special area class instruction in art, music, library, and physical education through synchronous or asynchronous learning activities.
- Sample [Elementary Hybrid Daily Schedule](#)

At the secondary level, during class periods teachers will present synchronized instruction using various platforms. Students will have an opportunity to:

- Receive live virtual instruction from their teacher(s) a minimum of 4 days a week. Teacher office hours will provide students with the opportunity to receive additional help from teachers.

- Join their classmates for class meetings and social-emotional learning. Engage in small groups for instruction as needed.
- Work independently on assignments and projects.
- Take movement breaks and screen breaks throughout the day.
- Participate in special area class instruction such as art, music, and physical education through synchronous or asynchronous learning activities.
- [Sample Middle and High Class Period Schedule](#)

Principals across our district have worked tirelessly to create balanced cohorts that meet the unique needs of students and families. For students in grades K-6, should a family decide that they wish to transition into the hybrid model from Cohort C, we ask that you contact your child's principal so that he/she may grant your request. Please allow up to two weeks for this request to be processed as transportation needs must be factored into the change. While principals have worked to accommodate families to the best of their ability, once school has started, a principal cannot guarantee the cohort in which a child will be placed when transitioning from Cohort C to the hybrid model. Switching cohorts at the secondary level presents more challenges than at the elementary level. Cohort changes at the secondary level will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Virtual/Remote Learning

Hybrid learning is an educational model where some students attend class in-person, while others join the class virtually from home. Educators teach remote and in-person students at the same time using tools like Zoom. Parents are encouraged to have their students participate in a location that is quiet and free of distraction, to the best of their ability. To protect student confidentiality, other individuals in the home are not permitted to participate in or be visible on the video conference, or otherwise observe the lesson, other than reasonable adult supervision of the student. Parents and students are prohibited from recording video conferencing sessions.

All individuals shall comply with relevant Board of Education policies, including but not limited to those concerning the confidentiality of student records and acceptable use of district computer systems. These policies can be accessed through the [District's Website](#).

Student privacy and the confidentiality of student information is of utmost importance. Parents are reminded, however, that the District is not in direct control of individual homes of participating students.

Attendance

Teachers will take attendance daily for all students whether virtual or in person. Parents and/or caregivers are asked to ensure that students log in during their scheduled time to guarantee attendance. More information regarding attendance will be provided after the opening of school as districts are still awaiting specific guidance from the state.

Again, we look forward to welcoming you and your child(ren) back to school.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dr. Parvey', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr. Magda Parvey
Chief Academic Officer