

# MADISON HIGH SCHOOL

170 Ridgedale Avenue  
Madison, NJ 07940  
(973) 593-3117



David Drechsel, *Principal*  
Kelly Bosworth, *Assistant Principal*  
Todd Jensen, *Assistant Principal*  
Christine Internicola, *Assistant Principal - Guidance*  
Andrea Padelsky, *Assistant Principal - Athletics*

August 23, 2019

Dear MHS Parents and Students:

It is with great pride and excitement that I welcome you back for the 2019-2020 school year. I hope that you had a relaxing and enjoyable summer filled with quality time spent with family and friends. Two years ago, the Madison School District provided me the opportunity to serve as Assistant Principal at the High School. In that role, I worked tirelessly on behalf of all students and became completely invested in the Madison Community. I write to you today honored and humbled to serve as the next Principal of Madison High School. While my office and title may have changed, I promise to continue fostering an environment where all of our students feel welcomed, valued, and appreciated. We will continue to challenge students academically while managing their well-being and encouraging them to pursue their interests and passions.

In preparation for the first day of school, I would like to share important information pertaining to the upcoming school year, as well as highlight noteworthy staffing changes, initiatives, and renovation projects that have occurred over the summer. Also accompanying this letter is the summer packet that we ask parents to review and complete for each child prior to the first day of school.

## **Summer Packet**

The summer packet contains a great deal of information about the upcoming school year, as well as important forms that must be completed and returned to the school. We have created direct links to provide parents with access to the information and forms needed to prepare for the upcoming school year. We have also categorized information according to its relevance, with mandatory items parents need to complete listed up front. We recognize that this can be a cumbersome process and appreciate the time you take to complete everything requested of you. The link to this letter and summer packet will also be posted on the [MHS Home Page](#). Please remember that if you have more than one child attending the high school you will need to complete the applicable forms for each child. Also included within the summer packet is a copy of the Student Handbook that the students will receive via school email prior to the first day of school. This document will provide valuable assistance to students (and parents) in helping them maximize their educational experience at the high school.

## **New Administration**

The start of the 19-20 school year brings four new Assistant Principals to Madison High School. I took a lead role in and was a part of each of their hires. I have worked closely with each one of them over the summer and have the utmost confidence in their abilities. All four have a passion for education and will go above and beyond to help and see our students reach their maximum potential.

- **Kelly Bosworth** (Assistant Principal) - Ms. Bosworth is entering her eighth year in the Madison School District and first as Assistant Principal of the High School. Ms. Bosworth began her tenure by teaching

mathematics at the Junior School before becoming a K - 12 Curriculum Supervisor of Mathematics and Science.

- **Todd Jensen** (Assistant Principal) - Mr. Jensen comes to Madison from Hopatcong Borough Schools. He started his career as a history and AP Psychology teacher before becoming the Supervisor of Humanities & Technology for the district. Mr. Jensen also coached basketball for ten years.
- **Christine Internicola** (Assistant Principal in charge of Guidance) - Ms. Internicola comes to Madison from the Bergenfield Public School District. She began her journey in education as a school counselor and SAC (Student Assistance Counselor) prior to becoming the Director of Guidance and Nursing.
- **Andrea Padelsky** (Assistant Principal in charge of Athletics) - Ms. Padelsky comes to Madison from the Pascack Valley Regional High School District. Prior to Madison, she was a health, driver, and physical education teacher and adjunct professor teaching at Montclair State. Ms. Padelsky also coached basketball and played at Pace University scoring over 1200 career points.

In order to help with the transition, we have created the following [communication protocol](#) for families to refer to if they need assistance throughout the course of the year. Please adhere to the protocol and staff members pledge to be sensitive to your concerns, to maintain confidentiality and to return calls/emails within 24 hours.

### **Status of the Locker Room Construction Project**

The good news is our students and athletic programs will have state of the art locker rooms facilities in the 19-20 school year. Unfortunately, the project is not scheduled to be complete until after the fall season has concluded. Here is an estimated timeline for completion:

- Access to main gymnasium on old boy's side (not including team locker rooms) - **Friday, September 6th**
- Substantial completion of main gymnasium and physical education locker rooms on old girl's side - **Friday, October 4th**
- Substantial completion of team locker rooms on old boy's side - **Thursday, November 7th**
- Refurbishing of main gymnasium floor - **Friday, November 8th**
- Completion of entire project - **Tuesday, November 19th**

This will be a temporary inconvenience for both our students and staff. In the end, it will provide our school with a much needed upgrade. In preparation, we have made the following accommodations:

- A temporary wall has been built dividing the wrestling room into two changing areas. This will be used for students to change for physical education classes during the day and athletes to change after school.
- Four storage pods have been purchased. Two have been stored by the baseball field and the other two have been placed behind the hut facing the school. Three of those four pods will be used for student athletes to drop off their equipment prior to the school day. It is also recommended that students utilize their assigned hallway locker for storage space.

All athletic equipment must be transported to and from school on a daily basis for the fall season. We will not be storing student equipment in the pods or wrestling room overnight. Any equipment, clothes, or belongings left behind in these areas will be placed in the lost and found. All personal belongings (phones, wallets, AirPods, etc...) should be locked and stored in your child's assigned hallway locker. Our staff will properly supervise all

areas, but will not be held responsible for personal belongings left in backpacks or in these temporary spaces. If additional accommodations need to be made, our staff will be more than happy to help in any possible way.

### **Staffing**

We are pleased to welcome in a number of new faculty members this year as a result of recent retirements and resignations. We have thoroughly invested our time in hiring the best educators and support staff to work with our students, and I am confident that the individuals joining our faculty will do an outstanding job.

- **Madison Berry (Art)** - Replacing Mary Ann St. Jacques
- **Gabriella Caputo (Italian)** - Replacing Lisa Finaldi
- **Megan Ehrenfeld (Spanish)** - Replacing Barbara Neto
- **Nicole Krysa (Mathematics)** - Replacing Sarah Mundhenk
- **Rose Mikula (Guidance Secretary)** - Replacing Clare McAloon
- **Christina Moutafis (Special Education / Science)** - New Position
- **Jaquelynne Radcliff (English)** - Replacing Anne Wessel Dwyer
- **Jean Rice (French)** - Replacing Benedicte Thieberger-Kittinger
- **Janet Testerman (Physics)** - Replacing Kevin Braine
- **Eric Tripp (History)** - Replacing Richard Bradshaw
- **Eric Weiss (Physics)** - Replacing Luis Largo
- **Kristin Winner (Biology)** - Replacing Allie Spangler

### **Freshman Orientation**

Ninth Grade Welcome Day will be held on Thursday, August 29th in the MHS Auditorium from 1pm - 3pm. This program offers incoming ninth grade students an excellent opportunity to meet their teachers, tour the building, and become familiar with their schedules prior to the official start of school on September 3rd. I highly recommend that they all attend!

### **Back to School Night**

Back to School Night will be held on Thursday, September 26th. We ask that everyone meet in the auditorium at 7:00 pm for a brief introduction before moving on to your child's first period class. Back to School Night is a great opportunity to meet your child's teachers and the new administration at Madison High School.

### **Cell Phone and Technology Use Protocol**

If used appropriately, cell phones and today's technology have extraordinary potential for enhancing student learning and performance. Unfortunately, they can become a hindrance in the classroom creating unnecessary distractions for students while diverting their attention away from learning. We have created a [protocol](#) for students to follow during the course of the year to ensure they learn to use their devices appropriately and reach their full academic potential without being distracted in the classroom.

## **How to Stay in Touch with What's Happening at MHS**

*The MHS Times Newsletter* - The goal of this publication is to share news and events occurring at MHS on a monthly basis through an electronic newsletter emailed directly to your home and posted on our website. Typical topics include, but are not limited to the following:

- Reminders about important upcoming events.
- Brief articles about events or programs that have occurred recently.
- Articles on special student or staff accomplishments.
- Important news from subject area departments.
- Athletics updates.
- Information from parent/booster organizations.
- Brief updates from ECA clubs and activities.
- Communications from MHS Administration.

*Follow Us on Social Media* - Parents and students are highly encouraged to follow Madison High School on Twitter ([@DodgerAthletics](#)), Facebook ([Madison High School, New Jersey](#)) and Instagram ([@madisonhighschool07940](#)) to keep up to date with the most recent events and information pertaining to MHS!

In closing, I eagerly look forward to opening day and having the opportunity to work with all of you to make the 2019-2020 school year a productive and educationally rewarding experience for our students. Enjoy the remaining days of summer and go Dodgers!

Sincerely,

David Drechsel  
Principal  
Madison High School

## Summer Packet 2019-2020

### **Section I - Mandatory Forms on the Genesis Parent Portal** (link: [Genesis Parent Portal](#))

*To access the forms, the Primary Guardian will need to log into the parent portal. Upon signing in to the parent portal, you will be prompted to complete or review each of the following forms. The forms will be listed under the forms tab. Please note that all of the forms must be filled out in order to gain access to any additional information, other than contact information, in the Parent Portal. Please also note that the forms will only be available to the Primary Guardian. Once the Primary Guardian fills out the forms the portal will be unlocked for all Guardians and Students. If you encounter difficulty signing into the parent portal please contact the Main Office at (973)-593-3117 or [click this link](#).*

1. Demographic Information
2. Computer and Internet Use and Agreement & Parent/Student Permission
3. Computing Device Student Responsibility Contract
4. MHS Day of Service Consent
5. Military Consent to Contact
6. Diploma Name (Mandatory for 12th Grade Parents Only)
7. District Media Consent and Release Form
8. Activity Fee Policy
9. NURSE: Annual Medical Information Update Form
10. NURSE: Permission for Medication Administration (If applicable)
11. Health Insurance
12. MHS Honor Pledge
13. Madison Mail & Email Consent to Send Out

### **Section II - Information Helpful to Students & Parents**

*Click on the links below to access information that is relevant to you or your child.*

1. [MHS Communication Protocol](#)
2. [Madison Public Schools Calendar](#)
3. [MHS Calendar Highlights](#)
4. [MHS ABCD Day Schedule](#)
5. [Homeroom List](#)
6. [Guidance Events Schedule](#)
7. [Athletic Schedules](#)
8. [ECA Brochure and Offerings](#)

### **Section III - Parent Organization & Grade Level Related Information**

*Click on the links below to access information and/or forms that are relevant to you or your child.*

1. [PTSO Welcome Letter & Membership Form](#)
2. [Class Council Letter](#)
3. [Graduation Lawn Sign & Senior Stars Form for Class of 2020](#)
4. [Yearbook Order Form](#)
5. [Madison Music Association \(MMA\) Membership Form](#)
6. [Marching Dodgers Booster Club Letter](#)
7. [MHS Soccer Booster Club Mums Flyer](#)
8. [Graduation Gala Letter](#)

#### **Section IV - School Policy & Operating Procedures**

*Click on the links below to access information about important policies and operating procedures.*

1. [Alternative Physical Education Option - Fall Application & Requirements](#)
2. [Calculator Letter for Parents](#)
3. [MHS Cell Phone & Technology Use Protocol](#)
4. [MHS Student Handbook](#)
5. [MHS Attendance Policy](#)
6. [MHS Code of Conduct Policy](#)
7. [MHS Honor Code Policy](#)
8. [MHS Dress Code Policy](#)
9. [MHS Visitor and Security Protocols](#)
10. [MHS Drop Off / Pick Up Traffic Regulations](#)
11. [MHS Student Parking Letter](#)
12. [MHS Senior Privilege Rules & Regulations](#)

#### **Section V - Additional Parent Resources**

*Click on the links below to access information and/or forms that are relevant to you or your child.*

1. [Free & Reduced Lunch Application](#)
2. [Student Lunch Prices & Online Payment Information](#)
3. [Health Services Webpage](#)
4. [Parent/Guardian's Guide to Configuring Alerts in the Parent Portal](#)
5. [Directions to Sign Up for Honeywell Instant Alert System](#)
6. [Directions to Sign Up for School Website E-Communications](#)
7. [A+ School Awards Registration Process](#)
8. [Voluntary Enrollment in Student Accident Insurance](#)