

Hello, this is Dr. Jessica Huizenga, Superintendent of Schools for the Milford School District.

We hope you are having a wonderful summer. For your planning purposes, we want to inform you of important information for this coming school year, as well as this year's dates for our Data Verification/Registration Days at Milford High School located at 100 West Street, and of other exciting happenings in the Milford School District.

Important Information for this Year:

Milford Middle School - **6th grade Parent Orientation**, August 1st 7:00 – 8:00 pm, MMS Cafeteria.

Heron Pond - **Grade 2 Ice Cream Social**, Monday, August 26th 3:30 – 5:50 pm.

Jacques Memorial - **Grade 1 Meet and Greet**, Monday, August 26th 2:00 – 3:00 pm.

Jacques Memorial – **Kindergarten Ice Cream Social**, Tuesday, September 3rd 3:30 – 5:30 pm.

The first day for Students, grades 1 through 9, is Wednesday, August 28th. The first day for students grades 10 through 12 is Thursday, August 29th. The first day for our new Pre-K and Kindergarten students is Wednesday, September 4th. There is **no school** on Friday, August 30th and Monday, September 2, for the observance of labor day.

***New this year, there will be a two-hour early release day each month. These early releases afford the district professional staff to engage in Professional Learning Communities and collaboration time. Please see the district calendar for those dates.

The Open House Schedule for each school are as follows:

Milford Middle School – September 11

Heron Pond Grades 4 & 5 – September 17

Heron Pond Grades 2 & 3 – September 18

Milford High School and Project Drive – September 19

Jacques Memorial Kindergarten – September 24

Jacques Memorial Grade 1– September 26

Please note on this year's school calendar there will be a teacher workshop day in January, which means a no school day for students, date to be determined by the Secretary of State for the primary election day. Notification of that date will occur early in the fall as soon as the date is set by the Secretary of State.

Data Verification Days

This is required for every student attending school in the Milford School District for the up-coming school year, unless you have recently registered your child in the past two months, and have confirmed your information is up to date.

This year's dates are Thursday, August 15 & Tuesday, August 20 from 7 am to 7 pm.

On our Data Verification/Registration Days personnel from each of our buildings will be available to assist you in a one stop process for you to update your contact information, vital medical information, enroll in the free and reduced hot lunch program and/or the school dental program. If your child has a medication that will be used during the school day, you can bring it at this time, along with the required written parental and physician permissions.

Communication with Schools and District

Building a strong relationship between home, school, and community is critical to a quality education. As such, we are always working on ways to improve our communication and service to our students and families in Milford. If you have a concern, please contact the individual closest to the concern. If that is your child's teacher, please start there. If you have a building concern, please contact the building principal. If you do not feel as if your needs are being met, please then contact the Superintendent's office. As you all know, we are in an age where it is quick and easy to get onto Social Media and express concerns. However, as we have all experienced, that is not always the most productive way to remedy them, and can lead to the spread of misinformation. All of the Milford Staff and Administrators are committed to ensuring every child has a happy, healthy, and productive educational experience in all our schools. So, please reach out and let us know how we can continue to support you, and your children.

Community Conversations

For your planning purposes, the Superintendent and members of her team, will be having three community conversations throughout the year to update parents and the community on school happenings.

All community conversations will happen in the Banquet Hall in the Town Hall at 7:00 PM on the following dates:

- November 20, 2019
- January 29, 2020
- May 20, 2020

Highlights as we enter into the 19-20 School Year

The summer has been bustling with action in the Milford School District. Our new Strategic Plan was adopted by the Milford School Board at our July meeting, and each School is now beginning the work on developing school based plans with staff that align to our District Plan. Professional Development and Curriculum Work has been ongoing and will continue throughout the summer and across the schools in areas such as

- Literacy
- Google
- World Language
- Middle School Advisory
- Professional Learning Communities
- Math
- Science
- Therapeutic Behavioral Supports.

We are excited about all the great learning happening across the district and the positive impact it will have on our students in the coming years. By the end of summer, we will also be welcoming over 40 new staff to the Milford School District. Our hiring teams have done a tremendous job, and we have excellent educators joining our community that will help us in realizing the Vision and Mission for our School District, which is:

Vision

The Milford School District will be an inspiring community where deep learning and strong relationships empower ALL students to become designers of their own story.

Mission

The Milford School District nurtures all learners to be designers of their own stories by supporting:

- relevant and engaging learning experiences
- diverse perspectives that find common ground for the greater good through ongoing engagement
- meaningful opportunities for student voice and choice
- caring, supportive, and collaborative relationships in and across communities
- well maintained facilities and infrastructure to enable and support student achievement, fiscal efficiency and cost effective delivery of programs and services
- fostering innovation to ensure continuous improvement and excellence in our schools, district, and community

Over the next 5 years our Strategic Plan will focus on:

- Strengthening our core curriculum and instruction with the integration of social and emotional learning
- Continuing to increase time and supports for students, teachers, and families
- Investing in our staff through powerful, ongoing professional development
- Providing more access, opportunity and encouraging innovation at every level
- Focusing on the fundamentals of our elementary education to build a strong foundation for our Middle and High School students
- Expanding opportunities for choice and innovation throughout our district
- Increasing access to technology, the arts, music, and foreign language
- Improving policy, communication, community engagement

All of this is predicated on having adequate, well maintained facilities and an infrastructure that supports high quality 21st Century Learning and achievement; along with efficient and cost effective delivery of programs and services.

Thank you for your continued support, engagement, and investment in the Milford School District. For your convenience we have created a FAQ document to answer some of your most pressing questions as we enter the new school year.

Here is a link to the FAQs: <http://milfordk12.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/FAQs-for-Parents-7-2019.pdf>

We are excited for the new programming, and opportunities ahead for the families, students, and the Milford Community at large.

Have a fantastic rest of the summer,

Dr. Jessica Huizenga