

MOUNT HOLLY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

SEPTEMBER 2022

Dear Mount Holly Families,

Thank you for helping Mount Holly get off to a great start to the 2022-2023 school year. We have approximately 100 more students this year than last year meaning more cars in the car rider line, more students on buses and in classes. With the rise in numbers, parents have been patient with our morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up. Busses are leaving the bus lot earlier in the afternoons also. Thank you, parents, students and Mount Holly staff for the great beginning of the year.

Please read the information and items of concern listed below for all parents and guardians. Thank you in advance for your support of these items. Below is Mount Holly's information for September.

- The COVID Call Center is open to answer all Covid-19 related questions and reporting must be directed to the call center. Staff will be available Monday–Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. to answer questions, provide return to school dates, code attendance related to COVID-19, and assist with arranging COVID testing when needed. You must contact the COVID Call Center to ensure absences related to COVID are coded correctly for your student. You may reach the call center at 803-980-2016 or covid@rhmail.org.
- Early Dismissal ends at 1:50PM. You will only be able to get your child from school after 1:50PM for a medical appointment and you **must** present the appointment notification when you come to sign out your child.
- We are now eating breakfast in the cafeteria instead of the classroom. If your child is a morning car rider and eats breakfast at school, please arrive at school in enough time for your child (children) to be in the cafeteria by 7:25AM. This will give your child enough time eat breakfast and get to class before the 7:45AM tardy bell.
- Across the country, more than 8 million students are academically at risk due to missing so many days of school. September is Attendance Awareness Month, a time to learn about attendance issues, absenteeism, and the effects attendance can have on academic performance and success. School attendance is vital to academic success. Absences, whether excused or unexcused, can add up to academic trouble. Unless for illness, let's work to have all of our Mount Holly students present and on time every day.
- During the testing window of September 12th -23rd, students in 1st-5th grades will take the MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) test in the areas of Reading and Math. This adaptive assessment is used to inform teachers of each student's ability in multiple areas and to help us monitor student growth over time. The data provided by MAP assessments also gives our teachers important information that is used for planning lessons to meet the unique instructional needs of each student. Students who are out will be tested when they return to school.

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Although the MAP test is not an assessment that you can prepare for by studying, there are a few things that parents can do to help ensure that students are prepared and ready for testing. Please make certain that your child is on time to school, well rested, and has eaten a good breakfast each day they test.

Important Dates for September and October:

SEPTEMBER

- 8 PTO Meeting at 5:30PM in the MHES media center
- 12-16 Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessments in Reading and Math
- 14 Progress Reports go home
- 16-23 Scholastic Book Fair

OCTOBER

- 3-6 4th Grade Kicking with Confidence (Swimming Instruction) at the Aquatics Center
- 10 Fall Fundraiser Kick-off
- 14 Early Release Day – school ends at 11:00AM
- 17 District PD Day / OEC DAY (No school for students)
- 24 Fall Fundraiser ends

