Welcome 6th Grade Parents and Students
2020-21 School Year
Introductions

Melina Berduo
Crystal Lane
Middle School Principal

Matthew Castaneda
8th Grade Asst. Principal

Kristen Machczynski
6th & 7th Grade Asst. Principal

Coco Cole
IB MYP Coordinator

Tina Van Winkle
Counselor

Andrea Schuler
Librarian

Lisa Powers
Athletic Coordinator

Olga Alexander
CM & After School 6-12 director

Attendance Specialist
Continuity vs. Change

Continuity

● International Baccalaureate Curricular Framework - MYP
● Faculty and Leadership familiar with PYP and growing as a stronger continuum

Change

● New Athletic Coordinator: please welcome Ms. Andrea Schuler!
● Changing Classes + A/B Day Schedule + Adolescent brain and attitude
● Homework Load and Time Management, using Managebac and Ascender (formerly TXConnect)
● New friends, identity
20-21 Distance Learning Schedule

1) Students need to attend class everyday.
2) If students have special circumstances that keep them from attending class (wifi drops, can’t log in) you need to email your teacher.
3) If students miss school for an excusable reason, parents will need to provide the attendance clerk with an excused note via email.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A/B Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st/5th</td>
<td>8:30-9:55</td>
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<tr>
<td>Passing</td>
<td>9:55-10:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd/6th</td>
<td>10:00-11:25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Passing</td>
<td>11:25-11:30</td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd/7th</td>
<td>11:30-12:55</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>12:55-2:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advisory</td>
<td>2:00-2:35</td>
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<tr>
<td>Passing</td>
<td>2:35-2:40</td>
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<tr>
<td>4th/8th</td>
<td>2:40-4:05</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wednesday A/B Days</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st/5th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Passing</td>
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MYP Program

- Learner Profile
- Service as Action
- 8 subject groups
- International-mindedness
- PYP Exhibition
  - → MYP Personal project
- PYP Transdisciplinary themes
  - → MYP Global Contexts
MYP Program: Learner Profile
6th Grade Courses

1. Language and Literature
   ○ English Language Arts

2. Language Acquisition
   ○ French 1a or Spanish 1a

3. Individuals and Societies
   ○ World Cultures

4. Science

5. Math

6. The Arts
   ○ Music (Band/Orchestra)

7. Physical and Health Education

8. Design
Distance Learning

Parents: Ensure Mics and cameras are operational

- More rigorous than in the spring
- Synchronous (“live” class) and Asynchronous (while teacher is away) (both formats) *minimum* 30 min via Zoom
- Show face and actively participate in Zoom
- Submit work via Google classroom and MBac
- Expect homework each night
  - Meaningful; reinforces learning or preps for new understanding.
- Plan for success!
  - Planners and Approaches to Learning Skills
Assigned Submission Expectations

- Zoom links and due dates?: ManageBac.
- Check grades?: Ascender.
- Secret to Success? Time management.
- A new tool: Google Classroom
Student Planners

- 6th and 7th graders will receive a FREE Meridian student planner.

- Students can check ManageBac, Google Classroom, and Ascender for information on assignments.
ManageBac - What is it?

- Online platform for communication
- How do students access it? For what?
- What about parents?
Zoom is Back!

- Students should be aware of the following:
  - Sign on no later than the beginning of class
  - Wear appropriate clothing (i.e., non-distracting). Uniforms are not expected.
  - Use the bathroom before logging onto Zoom
  - Have your camera enabled
  - If you need additional help or have questions, schedule a time with your teacher during office hours.
Ascender Gradebook - Online Portal to view Student Grades

- Students get an email to sign up for Ascender automatically.
- Parents returning to Meridian will be able to use their same login credentials to see their student’s grades.
- New parents have received an email from Ms. Gaudiesus (j.gaudiesus@mwschool.org) on how to add your student to Ascender.

![Ascender Gradebook Login Page](image)
Ascender Gradebook

- Student Schedules will be available August 5th in Ascender
- Parents can set up alerts for grades!
- Progress Reports & Report cards will be available through Ascender 4 weeks into the quarter
- Please activate your Ascender account if you have not already and contact Janette Gaudiesus at j.gaudiesus@mwschool.org for assistance
Tutorial Schedule

- Tutorials offer a great opportunity for students to get extra support with academic work.
- MANY Meridian students attend tutorials.
- Tutorial times are listed on each teacher’s course syllabus (posted on ManageBac), and there is a live link on school website: Tutorial Schedule (updated soon for this school year!)
  - Times for tutorials are coming soon. Teachers will offer tutorials two times a week by Zoom.
Meridian School Discipline: A Restorative Approach

These are the questions we ask students when a discipline matter arises:

- What are you doing?
- What are you *supposed* to be doing?
- Are you doing it?
- What are you going to do about it?
- How can you connect your behavior to the IB Learner Profile?
- What support do you need to make improvements in your choices?

Extension:

- What do you need to do to make this right? (relationship repair)
Discipline Continued

Using the **IB Learner Profile**

- Inquirers
- Knowledgeable
- Thinkers
- Communicators
- Principled
- Open-minded
- Caring
- Risk-takers
- Balanced
- Reflective
Ms. Cole is available for 1:1 check-ins between 9:00am-4:00pm daily Monday-Friday (though she may have some meetings). Ms. Cole will also occasionally visit classrooms for support.

How to Schedule a Meeting
To schedule an individual Zoom, email Ms. Cole with preferred times and a link will be sent to you: c.cole@mwschool.org

Confidentiality
Remember the confidentiality of check-ins depends upon your setting. For example, we cannot control your little brother walking into your room. Please use your school email and have video active so we can ensure we are talking to you. The same confidentiality limitations apply.
Attendance

- Please report absences!
  - Via Email

For your MIDDLE school student: Attendance-MS@mwschool.org

Include: Student’s full name, grade level, date of absence(s), reason for absence, good contact information for follow-up with parent if needed.

Ms. Alexander is the attendance clerk for the Middle School
Expectations / Appointments

95% Attendance in all classes; Taken within the first 5 mins.
*Students (not returning when f2f resumes) must have all work submitted by 8 pm daily.

Saturday Opportunity School (online) assignment for excessive absences.

• Please try to schedule doctor appointments after 9:30 am.
• Please provide documentation of doctor’s visit, such as doctor’s note (preferred upon return but we will accept within 48 hours of the visit)

Just remember-

Email Olga Alexander at o.alexander@mwschool.org
Absences and Engagement

Students are expected to sign onto their Zoom session promptly at the start time of their class.

- If you are aware that your student will be late or absent to class because of prior obligations, please send an email to the student’s teacher as well as our attendance clerk Olga Alexander at o.alexander@mwschool.org.
- Stay engaged. Actively participate, Answer questions, Submit Google forms, participate in polls, Kahoots, chats, blog posts, etc. And do the practice assigned outside of class ie: Homework
- EMPHASIS THIS YEAR IS STUDENT AGENCY AND STUDENTS MORE THAN EVER HAVE A VITAL ROLE IN THEIR LEARNING!
School Communications ON-Going

- School Website: www.mwschool.org
- E-Newsletters:
  - The “Lion’s Share” (every Weds) - from MS & HS Principals
  - VIP News (published bi-weekly) - from Volunteers in Partnership
  - Athletic news available on website
- Text Messaging System (emergency communications, bad weather, etc)
  - Look for an email from the registrar regarding opt-in to this service
  - *We will contact you if any of our emergency drills are serious and not a planned or standard drill
- Principals’ Coffees (look for info in the Lion’s Share)
- Board meetings - dates posted on the website
First Day of Class: August 10th
Get your Schedule in Ascender August 5th

Given that we will all be in distance learning for the first four weeks of school, we will hold additional information sessions regarding reopening as we approach the tentative Sept 8th reopen date. We have not sent commitment forms, but will do so as we get closer to reopening. Additionally, we will share our on campus learning safety procedures and policies with our families as soon as we have our final plans completed. Changes are coming often and we appreciate your patience and understanding.
## Questions?

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