



# Shark Bytes



## MRMS to host “5th grade / new student orientation” on August 26th

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### Upcoming Events:

- Monday, August 26th 8:30—9:30 AM Orientation for incoming fifth graders and students new to Monomoy
- Tuesday, September 3rd first day of school
- September 11th and 25th Early Dismissal; students dismissed at 2:40 PM
- Friday, September 13th 6:30—8:30 PM Fifth grade social
- Thursday, September 26th 6:30—8:30 PM Curriculum night for parents
- Friday, September 27th 5:30—7:30 PM Beach and Bonfire Night at Red River
- October 22nd and 24th Parent-Teacher conferences; students dismissed at 12:25

As we prepare for the reopening of school on September 3rd, we want to make sure our incoming fifth graders, along with any sixth or seventh graders who are new to Monomoy, enjoy a smooth transition to their new school.

To that end, we invite all students and parents who are new to our building to attend our **“new student orientation” on Monday, August 26th from 8:30 AM to 9:30 AM.** This program is designed for incoming fifth graders and their parents, along with any sixth or seventh graders (and their parents) who are new to Monomoy.

The morning promises a bit of something for everyone. Parents will meet with the administration, hear about our programmatic offerings and daily schedule, and learn about some of the unique educational expe-

periences that make our school so special.

Students will find out which team they are on, receive their schedules, find their lockers, and participate in a school “scavenger hunt”. They will also learn about the many clubs and sports we offer and meet key personnel like our school nurse, counselors, school resource officer, and athletic director.

At least one parent/guardian should attend the orientation, as parents will receive their Aspen usernames and passwords at the session. An Aspen account allows parents to view grades online, to get a description of missing assignments, to track attendance, and to contact teachers via e-mail.

Monomoy follows a quarterly schedule, so an active Aspen account helps parents keep



*Summer afternoon, summer afternoon; to me those have always been the two most beautiful words in the English language.*

~Henry James

abreast of their child’s academic progress between report cards. For households that cannot attend on August 26th, we will mail the orientation information.

The teachers and the administrative staff are excited about the new school year and we look forward to welcoming all fifth graders and new students on August 26th! See you there!

## School Council / MRMS Parent Group

The MRMS School Council is comprised of teachers, parents, and community members. If you are a parent or community member interested in serving on our School Council, please reach out to the MRMS principal, Mark Wilson, at [mwilson@monomoy.edu](mailto:mwilson@monomoy.edu).

The School Council meets monthly. Its most important functions are to monitor the School Improvement Plan and to develop the school budget. Our first School Council meeting will take place on Monday, September 30th at 3:30 PM in the admin conference room.

We also have a MRMS Parents Group, which sponsors community events to strengthen the school-community partnership. The group meets directly after School Council—our first meeting is Sept. 30th at 4:30 PM. We are seeking new members & fresh ideas. Please join!

## Summary of recent changes at MRMS



**A successful team is a group of many hands but of one mind.**

Like a welcome summer rain, humor may suddenly cleanse and cool the earth, the air, and you.

- Langston Hughes



*A perfect summer day is when the sun is shining, the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing, and the lawn mower is broken.*

~James Dent

Monomoy Regional Middle School has taken several steps to strengthen our educational programming. Here is a summary of those changes.

### We are a one-to-one Chromebook school.

The vision for the district's digital learning initiative is to have instruction drive the use of technology in all content areas.

Through our school's "One-to-World" Chromebook initiative, MRMS learning is more meaningful and relevant for our students, and they will be better prepared for the challenges of college and their chosen careers. The tools will also help our students become responsible digital citizens, and enable them to grow intellectually, personally, and creatively.

Through research into best practices regarding technology use in schools, MRMS chose Google Chromebooks and the G-Suite tools (formerly called Google Apps for Education) as the best choices for achieving technology integration across all curricular areas.

Our long-term goal is to use technology to create student-centered, project-based classrooms where student engagement, participation, and collaboration thrive. We also want to use the technology to differentiate instruction based on the needs of individual students, to strengthen communication among teachers, students, and parents, and to reduce the amount of printed materials distributed in our classrooms.

Each fifth grader will receive a Chromebook to use during his/her three years at MRMS,

and we will provide each student with direct instruction on how to use the technology appropriately. We hope you share our excitement about this initiative!

We have also installed GoGuardian software on our school-issued Chromebooks. GoGuardian enables teachers to automatically record the websites each student visits during a lesson and receive a summary email, by student, of those websites. Teachers can also block sites and see thumbnails of each student's Chromebook screen at a glance.

### We maintained our low class sizes.

Monomoy Middle School is justifiably proud of maintaining low class sizes in our core academic classes of math, ELA, science, and social studies. For the upcoming school year, our average class size will be twenty in grade 5, seventeen in grade 6, and twenty-one in grade 7, with Unified Arts classes running slightly higher at each grade.

### We created heterogeneous math classes at grade seven.

In the past, grade seven had two sections of higher-performing math students pursuing an "accelerated math" curriculum, with each seventh grade teacher teaching one section. For the upcoming year, these students will be integrated throughout our grade seven math classes, with staff differentiating their instruction to meet the needs of these students.

There are two reasons for this change - one is philosophical and the other is practical. On

the philosophical side, scheduling students into "Accelerated Math" removed them as problem-solving role models for their peers. Given the importance of collaborative problem-solving and rich mathematical talk in middle school classrooms, placing the top third of our students in Accelerated Math significantly capped the opportunities for sound peer modeling and collaborative discussion in our other math classes and runs contrary to sound instructional philosophy for middle school.

On the practical side, with the rising seventh grade having an enrollment of 182 students, there would be three sections of Accelerated Math if we followed that model. Because we team at grade seven, by definition one team would end up with twice as many top students as the other and this would create a noticeably unjust imbalance. Hence, heterogeneous grouping, differentiation, and stronger peer-to-peer modeling and problem-solving is the model we are following.

### We upgraded the lighting for improved energy efficiency and better education.

Every classroom, hallway, bathroom, and gymnasium has been upgraded to high-efficiency LED lighting, which matches the lumens available through daylight.

The upgrade in lighting, which is supported by scientific study, can help enhance physical and mental states for students and staff and, without question, the lighting is significantly brighter and more energizing than the antiquated fixtures that were removed over the summer!

## *Tips and tools for a successful school year*

The first day of school is quickly approaching. Here are a few things you can do BEFORE school opens to help with the transition.

\* **Ease back into a routine**—a week or so before the first day, re-establish breakfast, dinner, and bedtime routines.

\* **Designate a space for homework**—set up necessary school supplies in this space.

\* **Select a spot for backpacks and lunch boxes**—routines help with organization.

Here are a few things you can do DURING THE FIRST FEW WEEKS of school to help students stay informed and organized:

\*Mark your calendars with important school dates/information.

\*Keep the family schedule clear while everyone gets used to the routine.

\*Plan extra time in the mornings - pack lunches & backpacks at night.

\*Establish an after school routine for going through school papers, homework, etc.

\*Attend informational meetings, parent-teacher conferences, curriculum nights, and open houses.

\*Familiarize yourself with school personnel.

\*Communicate questions or concerns with teachers, counselors, and/or administrators.

### **Tardy or Absent Students**

If your child is going to be tardy or absent from school, please call the school at 508-945-5140 x1112 between 5:00 AM and 10:00 AM.

Our school nurse will record the absence. If we have not heard from a parent / guardian by 10:00 AM, the school will call you at home and/or your place of employment.

**Please keep us apprised of any changes in your emergency contact information (telephone numbers, cell phone numbers, place of employment, address, etc.) as soon as they occur.** This information is vital to the safety of your child and the efficient operation of the school.

### **School Security**

All Monomoy exterior doors

are locked at 9:00 AM. Parents, guests, and tardy students must enter by the main office. Please ring the bell and announce your presence to the secretary. The secretary will unlock the right-hand door. Once you enter the building, please report to the main office.

### **Opening Day**

On September 3rd, our school will reopen for the year. Parents who transport their children should NOT arrive before 7:30 AM as there is no adult supervision to ensure student safety. Student drop-off between 7:30 and 8:15 is at the main entrance. After 8:15, please drive behind the building and drop your child off at the rear entrance to the cafeteria on the right side the building. Students should enter the cafeteria and remain there.

Buses will arrive between 8:25 AM and 8:35 AM. Upon arrival, students should report to the cafeteria. At 8:45 AM, the school day starts and students should be in homeroom.

On opening day, all fifth grade students will report to the auditorium, all sixth grade students will report to the cafeteria, and all seventh grade students will report to the gymnasium. Sixth

That beautiful season  
the Summer!  
Filled was the air with  
a dreamy and magical  
light;  
and the landscape  
Lay as if new created  
in all the freshness of  
childhood.

~ Henry Wadsworth  
Longfellow

and seventh grade students will receive their schedules and be escorted by their homeroom teachers to homeroom. Fifth grade students will be greeted by their homeroom teachers and then be escorted to homeroom.

### **Electronic Communication Devices**

Once students enter the building, all personal electronic communication devices (cellphones, iPods, Kindles, etc.) should be switched off and stored in homeroom. During the school day, students may use the office phone to call home if needed. Please respect this expectation, which protects the integrity of our instructional time, reduces social media issues/conflicts, and develops healthier peer relationships.

## *School Day and Before/After School Activities*

This fall marks the district's third year of adjusted start times at all four schools.

The MRMS school day will begin and end with homeroom. Students should be in homeroom at 8:45 and they will be dismissed from homeroom at 3:15. **Students catching a**

**ride to school by car should arrive by 8:35 AM.**

For households wishing to drop their children off earlier than 8:35 AM, the school will open its doors to students at 7:30 AM with the school library open and staffed every day from 7:30 to 4:15. As there is no adult supervision before

7:30 AM, please do not drop your child off before that time.

We hope to offer a slate of engaging & enjoyable morning & afternoon clubs—please be on the lookout for our club offerings brochure, which we will publish later this summer to give students club options each AM and PM.



# Monomoy Regional School District

Monomoy Regional Middle School  
425 Crowell Road  
Chatham, MA 02633-1969

Phone: 508-945-5140

Fax: 508-945-5110

Email: [www.monomoy.edu](http://www.monomoy.edu)



## Monomoy Regional School District

### *Fall sports / 7th grade medical requirements*

#### **Fall Sports News**

This fall, Monomoy will offer the following interscholastic sports: boys soccer, girls soccer, field hockey, and cross country. For boys and girls soccer, we will field an A team, and students from grades 5-7 are welcome to try out. We have also partnered with the Chatham and Harwich Rec Departments to offer a boys and girls Monomoy Rec Team. MRMS will continue to offer an A team and a B team for field hockey. Our district athletic director—Karen Guillemette—will reach out to share information on coaching appointments, practice and game schedules, and how to sign up for our interscholastic sport offerings. The school also offers golf as a club sport.



*Don't miss the boat!*

The first day of interscholastic sport practice will be held after school on Monday, September 9th. Fall athletes will need to register through FamilyID, our on-line sign-up tool available on the website. Only student-athletes with a completed physical exam on file with our school nurse will be allowed to participate. To be eligible for fall sports, the physical exam must have been completed on or after September 1, 2018.

#### **Vaccines required for 7th graders prior to entry**

Every rising 7th grader is required to receive 1 dose of Tdap, 2 doses of MMR, and 2 doses of Varicella by Massachusetts law. If your child has recently received these vaccines as part of his/her annual

physical exam, please forward a copy of the updated immunization record to the nurse's office ASAP. You can also fax the record to us at 508-945-5110.

If your child has not received these vaccines, please schedule an appointment with your primary care physician to have this done before September 9th. **For health and safety reasons, the administration must exclude your child from school if we do not receive the necessary documentation.** However, exceptions can be made if immunizations conflict with sincere religious beliefs and/or a medical exemption is necessary.