



# Hawlemont News

July 31, 2020

Goodwill \* Responsibility \* Integrity \* Teamwork

## From the Principal

Dear Families,

I know that many of you are wondering about next year. There are many pieces of guidance that keep coming out and need to be reviewed each time and taken into planning so please continue to be patient as we are waiting on some pieces. One Thursday, the Superintendent sent an email with an update. If you did not see this I have included it below. Be sure to check your email next week for more updates.

Please be sure to check out the events section for some upcoming events. Please continue to reach out with questions that you have or anything that you need. I am happy to help. You can always reach the office by emailing Lindsay at [lrodriguez@mtrsd.org](mailto:lrodriguez@mtrsd.org) or Sue at [sannear@mtrsd.org](mailto:sannear@mtrsd.org) or leaving a message at 413-339-8316. Messages are checked during the week and Sue or I will get back to you.

Stay healthy and enjoy the weekend!

*Lindsay Rodriguez*  
Principal

## Events

August 3rd - 3:30 Budget meeting

- Join with Google Meet  
[meet.google.com/sro-zrkh-oma](https://meet.google.com/sro-zrkh-oma)
- Join by phone  
(US) +1 929-269-1927 PIN: 840 337 193#

August 3rd - 4:30 School Committee meeting

- Join with Google Meet  
[meet.google.com/sda-vrdx-ste](https://meet.google.com/sda-vrdx-ste)
- Join by phone  
(US) +1 501-697-9563 PIN: 278 589 368#

August 4th 9:00-1:00

- Office hours

August 4th 4:00-5:30

- Good Neighbors food distribution at the Federated Church

August 18th 4:00-5:30

- Good Neighbors food distribution at the Federated Church

If you have questions or if you have an emergency food need, give Sheila Litchfield a call. 413-337-4957

## Other Information

Summer Office Hours

Tuesdays from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

## Contact Information

Address: 10 School Stree Charlemont, MA 01339

Facebook: [@HawlemontElementary](https://www.facebook.com/HawlemontElementary)

Website: [www.hawlemont.mohawktrailschools.org](http://www.hawlemont.mohawktrailschools.org)

Phone: (413)339-8316

Fax: (413)339-5760

## Email from the Superintendent

Yesterday, our Fall Reopening Working Groups reviewed the Draft Return to Learn Plan. We received great feedback! A HUGE and GRATEFUL THANK YOU to all who participated. It has been an amazing experience working with everyone and the result is a draft plan that is inclusive of our collective voices. I cannot say thank you enough to our families, staff, school committee, administration, and community members who participated.

We do know that our draft plan will need more details. We are receiving guidance from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) that informs much of the plan, however, some guidance is still forthcoming. That is a frustration for all of us as we try to make plans for the upcoming school year. I ask that you have patience with us and the process. I also ask that if you have a question, please reach out to me, the building principal, or a school committee member. When you ask, we listen! And if we don't know the answer yet, we will let you know why or find the answer!

We have all been working hard to draft our required plan and submit to DESE by July 31. The plan requires the development of three models for returning to school. One is an all in-person model with additional safety and health protocols in place. The second is a hybrid model where students alternate between in-person and remote learning. The third is an all remote model. Throughout the coming school year, the course of COVID-19 will determine many of our decisions and actions. DESE provided districts with guidance in several areas of reopening, including remote learning, transportation, facilities and operations, and health and safety. In concert with DESE, the Department of Public Health and our local Boards of Health, we anticipate the need to respond to the ever-changing COVID-19 pandemic with the potential models proposed in our Return to Learn plan.

One important point of feedback from yesterday afternoon was the importance of communication. We are committed to communicating with all of our stakeholders throughout the process. Our information/FAQ/email, social media, and phone "all call" systems are our primary ways of communicating with you. We've also been using surveys to gather information. We recognize that these are challenging times and that even with these modes of communication, we can do more. Today, the DLT worked to identify even more ways to share with you our work and gather your feedback as we move through the process of reopening school.

We will be adding the following communication tools to our toolbox:

- Weekly District email update on work of the DLT on fall reopening to go out every Friday
  - District information
  - MTRS detail
  - Elementary detail
- Weekly video update from Superintendent
- Update the website with current DESE guidances and draft plans
- FAQ sheets

- Additional Infographics based on FAQs
- Communicating the Plan Process and Decision

We will be scheduling the following:

- Virtual “Town Halls” to unpack the draft plan (Town Halls will be recorded and able to be accessed after the meeting for those who cannot attend)
- Virtual School-based Town Halls when the reopening model is chosen

I look forward to our continued work together, to creating strong learning communities for our children, our families, our staff, and our community.

sheryl