

Meadow Pond Elementary School



Katonah-Lewisboro School District
185 Smith Ridge Road, South Salem, New York 10590

Website: www.klschools.org/

Phone: 914-763-7900 Fax: 914-763-7986

Ashlyn Field, Principal

Dawn Pomeroy, Assistant Principal

August 2021

Dear MPES Families,

Welcome to Meadow Pond for the 21-22 school year! Ms. Pomeroy and I are so excited to welcome you to school!



We hope you are all well and that your family has enjoyed some quality time together this summer. Ms. Pomeroy spent a week this summer in Alaska with Max the Moose, while I have been getting to know the Meadow Pond school building and community and spending time with my own 3 kids! I have been at Meadow Pond for 2 months now, and I can already see that the staff make our school such a magical place. We are all looking forward to inviting you to the 2021-2022 school year with renewed hope and energy. We look forward to welcoming back all our students to full in-person learning in September. **Our first day of school with all K-5 students is Thursday, September 9.**

Below you will find a summary of some important information that will help your family plan for the return to school.

Kindergarten Visitation: Thursday, September 2 at 1:45 pm at MPES

New Family Orientation Grades 1-5 including K students who were fully remote or homeschooled last year:
Thursday, September 2 at 2:45 pm at MPES.

*If this information is relevant to your family and you did not receive it via email, please contact Lynne Licht in our main office at 914-763-7901 and she will assist you.

Class Placement: During the week of August 30, we will post the name of your child's teacher on your Infinite Campus Parent Portal. You will receive an email communication asking you to check your account when the information becomes available.

Our grade level teams this year are as follows:

Kindergarten- Mrs. Donaghy, Mrs. Hernandez, Mrs. Kovatch

First Grade- Mrs. Major, Mrs. Kuczinski, Ms. Mikelis

Second Grade- Mrs. Knapp, Mrs. Walsh, Mrs. Hoaglund

Third Grade- Mrs. Friscia, Mrs. Merritt

Fourth Grade- Mr. Briggs, Ms. Merritt, Mrs. Masi

Fifth Grade- Mrs. Choolfaian, Mr. Grossman, Mrs. Fattore

Our special education teachers include: Mrs. Ferrauto, Mrs. Morgan, Mrs. Paquette, Mrs. DiMarco, Mrs. Altieri and Mrs. Robinson

Health and Safety Guidelines

Daily Screeners: CDC and NYSED no longer recommend daily health questionnaires so it will not be a requirement of daily attendance. However, we ask that you check your child/ren daily for COVID-19 symptoms.

Student Health: It is most important that you keep your child(ren) home if they are sick. The District will be sending regular reminders about the symptoms and reasons that would cause a child to stay home. In addition, please contact us immediately in the event that you learn your child is COVID positive. Please contact our school nurse, Elizabeth Marcoux, at 914-763-7907 to inform her and keep her updated regarding your child's health.

Masks: Masks are required to be worn by students and staff when indoors and on school buses. Please be sure your child wears a mask to school each day. Also, please pack an extra mask for your child in a plastic bag. Students may store their masks in the plastic bag during indoor mask breaks, lunch, and snack. As per the guidance, masks will be optional outdoors.

Physical Distancing: CDC and NYSED recommend *at least 3 feet* of physical distance between students in classrooms. However, desks do not need to all be facing the same direction. This will allow for some flexibility in creating a collaborative learning environment conducive to whole class discussions, small group instruction and student partnerships. Physical distancing is no longer required on school buses. Though not required, KLSD will make every effort to increase the distance between students at indoor lunch (during inclement weather) and at other times when masks must be removed. Language about increased distance for certain activities such as music and PE has been removed from the guidance. However, we will make every effort to increase the distance during such activities. We will continue to teach students how to properly distance, especially during transitions in the classroom. Seating charts will be maintained on buses and in other indoor locations when necessary (for the purpose of contact tracing).

Handwashing and Hand Sanitizing: We will continue to implement handwashing and hand sanitizing routines throughout the school day.

Lunch: Families may pre-order FREE, bagged school lunches each Sunday for the following week. More information about how to pre-order will be sent to you in the near future. Students will eat lunch outdoors whenever the weather permits. Beginning the first week of school, please have your child bring a towel or yoga mat to use during outdoor time. We will make every effort to increase the distance between students during an inclement weather indoor lunch period.

Recess: Students will go outside daily for recess, weather permitting. Masks are optional during this time. Children will have the opportunity to play with their peers from across the grade level on the playground.

Cohorts: Students will remain with their class throughout the day (with the exception of recess when cohorts may mix). Classes will travel to the art, music and library classrooms, as well as to PE (which will be held outdoors unless weather doesn't permit). All teachers will continue to be encouraged to take students outside for learning experiences when appropriate.

Visitors: Consistent with CDC guidance, KLSD will limit non-essential visitors inside our buildings when the year begins. In general, parents should assume they will not be entering our buildings. We will be making limited exceptions, however, as we recognize there are times when individuals or small groups of visitors can be essential. We will also look to accommodate visitors outdoors, when possible. Our visitor guidance may evolve through the year and particularly if/when conditions change.

Other Mitigation Strategies: Cleaning and sanitizing will occur daily. All ventilation continues to be monitored and serviced so that it is working to its highest specification as designed. Appropriate PPE will continue to be available to all students and staff.

School and Family Conversations: We will be talking to your child about all of our safety measures and explaining how their participation and cooperation helps to keep our entire learning community healthy. We ask that you also provide comforting and supportive words to help your child better understand the importance of following our school's safety and health practices.

School Hours, Arrival and Dismissal

School hours are 9:15 am – 3:40 pm. We will start the year with the staggered bus and car drop off time. While we will start the year with the same arrival and dismissal as last year, we may revise our plans based on traffic patterns and bus-ridership.

For families who are driving, drop-off will be at the front entrance between 9:15 - 9:25 AM.

- Parents/guardians are not permitted to exit the car in the driveway during drop-off.
- Students should be wearing a mask and have their backpack (and water bottles, etc.) ready in order to swiftly exit the car curbside at the designated location. Students should exit from the right passenger side doors only.
- Staff members will be available to assist.

Please practice with your young child/ren the process of unbuckling, handling a backpack and exiting the car. Additionally, consider placement of car seats, boosters, etc. for the most effective way for your child to exit

curbside at drop-off (and enter from curbside at pick-up). Thank you in advance with helping to keep the traffic flow moving smoothly and safely.

For families who are driving, pick-up will be at the front entrance between 3:10 and 3:30.

In order to assist the staff with identifying a parent/guardian during pick-up, please write your child's grade, teacher's last name, and child's first and last name on a sheet of paper (at least 8x11 inches) and tape it to the front windshield of the passenger side of the car. Making this sign visible will help our process run smoothly. See the following example:

4th GRADE

MS. GAZELLE

PEPPA PIG

Remember to make a sign for each car that will be used to pick-up your child! This system helps to move all the cars along at pick-up.

For students who are taking bus transportation

- Your child's bus number, pick-up and drop-off times will be available soon on your Infinite Campus Parent Portal account.
- Each child will ride their assigned bus to and from school.
- Bus notes will not be honored. Students must ride their own buses home.
- Buses will unload students in the morning between 9:10-9:15. Buses will load students at Meadow Pond between 3:30 and 3:45.

School Supplies

The school supply lists may be found on our school's website: <https://mpes.klschools.org/>

Technology

Each student will have an assigned iPad that will be available for use in the classroom, as well as at home. Our goal is to integrate technology using a balanced and purposeful approach as we understand the importance and value of in-person learning experiences and non-digital activities.

Remote Learning

To meet the goal of having all students in-person, remote learning will not be a standard, year-long option. If, at any time, it becomes necessary to close schools and transition back to remote learning for all, KLSD is prepared. Medically fragile students will be evaluated on an individual, case by case basis. Families should reach out to their school principal if they believe their child may be unable to attend school.

Operations and Maintenance Department

As you drive onto our campus, you will notice the solar and wind powered lamp pole recently installed. They are free standing and completely powered by renewable energy. Our technology department will be adding enhancements that will connect the poles via WiFi to a suite of building management tools.

Mark your calendar for these important dates:

September:

- Kindergarten Visitation 9/2 @ 1:45 PM
- New Family Orientation 9/2 @ 2:45 PM
- First Day of School 9/9
- School Closed for Yom Kippur 9/16
- Meadow Pond Welcome Back Picnic @ Lewisboro Town Park on 9/17 @5-7PM
- PTO Meeting and Coffee 9/21 @ 9AM
- K-2 Curriculum Night 9/21 @ 7 PM (virtual)
- JJ Homecoming Weekend 9/25
- 3-5 Curriculum Night 9/27 @ 7 PM (virtual)
- PTO Picture Day 9/28

Looking ahead to October and November:

- Meadow Pond Harvest Day 10/7
- Meadow Pond Soup Day 10/8
- Emergency Dismissal Drill 10/8 (3:30PM)
- School Closed Indigenous Peoples/Columbus Day 10/11
- PTO Halloween Spectacular 10/29 @ 5:30 and 6:30pm
- PTO Book Fair Begins 11/1
- School Closed for Election Day/Superintendent's Conference Day 11/2
- Parent-Teacher Conferences/Early Dismissal 11/4 (6-8 PM), 11/8 (1-3:45 PM) and 11/9 (6-8 PM)
- School Closed for Veteran's Day 11/11
- Pre-Kindergarten Panelist Discussion hosted by Increase Miller 11/17
- PTO General Membership Meeting 11/17 @ 7:30 PM
- School Closed for Thanksgiving Break 11/25-11/26

Additionally, we are getting our building ready to welcome students back and we are asking for two things!

First, please send us a picture of your child from this summer. We will be displaying these pictures on our monitor screens! Please drop pictures here: [LINK to drop pictures](#) by Tuesday, August 31st.

Second, we are collecting pictures of each child to hang on our Max the Moose bulletin board. On the first day of school, please send in a 2 X 2 picture of your child to hang on our Moose antlers. Our goal is to hang up a picture of every student at Meadow Pond by the end of the first week of school. Please have your child give the picture to their teacher.



We are very much looking forward to seeing all our students in the coming weeks! In the meantime, enjoy the remaining days of summer and be sure to check your Infinite Campus Parent Portal next week for teacher assignments and transportation information.

Soon,

Ashlyn Field, Principal (afield@klschools.org)

Dawn Pomeroy, Assistant Principal (dpomeroy@klschools.org)