



# Meadow Pond Monthly Moosage: September

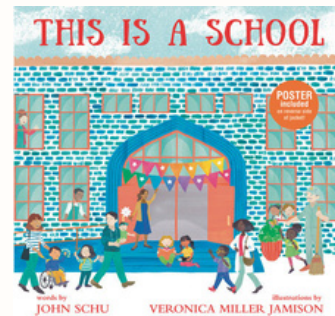
MPES is a joyful, affirming, and welcoming community that values common academic and social emotional learning opportunities. At MPES, students, adults, and Max the Moose are inspired to grow and take risks through relevant, active, and engaging experiences.

## Upcoming Events

September:

- Kindergarten Visitation 8/31 @ 9:30 AM
- New Family Visitation 8/31 @ 11:30 AM
- First Day of School 9/6
- Meadow Pond Welcome Back Celebration @ MPES on 9/9 @5-7PM
- PTO Meeting and Coffee 9/15 @ 9:30AM
- School Closed for Rosh Hashanah 9/26 and 9/27
- K-2 Curriculum Night 9/20 @ 7 PM
- 3-5 Curriculum Night 9/28 @ 7 PM
- PTO Picture Day 9/29
- SEPTO Welcome Back Event 9/30 @ Fox Valley 5:30PM

This year, we will be reading a new book each month throughout the school to highlight our monthly themes. During the month of September, we are focusing on: "Expectations". We will be reading "This is a School" and discussing ways that we can be respectful, responsible, kind, and safe at school. Shout out to the PTO for purchasing these monthly books for our classrooms!

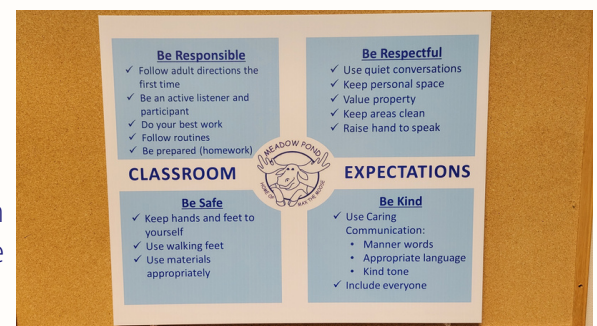


Our theme for October is: "Identity"

## MPES School Expectations

**At MPES, we practice being kind, being respectful, being responsible, and being safe.** MPES has expectations that help us remember to use respectful, responsible, kind and safe words and actions. We are bringing these ALIVE this year with our clear expectations chart that you will see posted all around the school. Again, shout out to the PTO for making this happen! Please review **THESE EXPECTATIONS** with your child/ren and ask them what they can do at school to help follow these expectations. When we all act in these ways, it helps our school be a welcoming place where everyone feels a sense of belonging and we can learn and grow together academically, socially, emotionally and physically.

This year, we will also be celebrating our school spirit and community expectations through our Moose Moolah, Classroom and School positive celebrations, and Town Halls.



# BAM Committee

Join the Belonging at MeadowPond (BAM) Committee!

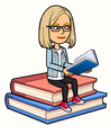
The goal for the Belonging at MeadowPond (BAM) Committee is to reinforce the vision of creating a joyful, affirming, and welcoming community by giving students, staff and families the opportunity to understand how each individual is unique, and recognizing our individual differences in celebration of what we all bring to the table. Our school population includes many different cultures, and we want to acknowledge how culture impacts our everyday modern life in order to further strengthen our community and appreciation with all of our families.

We will be meeting on the following dates in person at MPES from 8- 9am: September 15, October 13, November 10, December 8, January 12, February 9, March 9, April 13, May 11 and June 8.

Who is in this committee: Families members and school staff!

We welcome all to join to further develop these ideas and implement them throughout the school year. For those of you interested, please use [\*\*THIS GOOGLE FORM\*\*](#) to sign up.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Meeta.Sidhu@gmail.com.



## Curriculum Highlights

As we begin the year, here is what each grade is working on in reading, writing, and math!

In **Kindergarten**, students start the year thinking about how they are readers and engaging with texts such as *Brown Bear* and *Packs: Strength in Numbers*. In writing, students start the process of telling a story through talk, pictures, and writing and using their knowledge of letter sounds to help them “write”. In K, this usually means lots of labeling and initial sounds! In math, they launch the math workshops and focus on numbers to 5.

In **First Grade**, students are starting to build their good reading habits, using the mentor text, *A New Kind of Wild* while in writing they are starting their small moments unit using the mentor text, *Hair Love*. Students are also solidifying their letter sounds and blending words in Foundations. In math, students are working on fluently adding and subtracting within 10.

In **Second Grade**, students are building their “reading growth spurts” and reading books such as *Evelyn Del Rey is Moving Away* and *My First Day*. In writing, students are making small moments big and writing about memories that matter. In math students will be fluently adding and subtracting within 20 and working with equal groups.

In **Third Grade**, students are looking at their identity and building a reading life and a love of books. Students will read the books *Always Anjali* and *Chrysanthemum* and discuss how they got their names and explore their reading identity. In writing, students will craft true stories and learn how to become storytellers by stretching out the heart of the story. In Math, students will be understanding multiplication and division of whole numbers.

In **Fourth Grade**, students spend their first weeks interpreting characters in reading and determining themes and analyzing the author’s craft. In writing, students are examining the arc of the story and have the goal of bringing two full pieces of writing through the writing process. In math, students work on generalizing their place value understanding and fluently adding and subtracting multi-digit whole numbers.

In **Fifth Grade**, students begin the year by looking at theme, characters and perspective in reading by looking at books such as *A Different Pond*. In writing, students are working on writing meaningful small moments and using various elaboration techniques to bring the story to life. In math, students are also learning about place value and learning to add and subtract decimals to hundredths.



# Updates for the Start of the School Year

Welcome to the 2022-2023 school year.

The first day of school for all students, K-5, is Tuesday, September 6.

Below you will find some important information that will help your family plan for the beginning of school.

Next week on Wednesday, August 31, we will be welcoming our new students at the Kindergarten Visitation and New Student Visitation. Please contact the Main Office if you have questions regarding either of these events.

**Hello from our new AP David Bournas-Ney:** Hi, I am very excited to be joining the Meadow Pond community this year! For the last 11 years I have taught 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grades and done instructional coaching in Brooklyn and New Rochelle. I have felt so welcomed in Katonah in my first couple of months in the district and I cannot wait to meet all of you!

**Class Placement:** During the week of August 29, your child's teacher assignment will be posted on your Parent Portal Account on Infinite Campus. You will receive a district email communication asking you to check your account when the information becomes available.

**Arrival and Dismissal:** Our official school hours are 9:10 to 3:45. Our arrival and dismissal plans will remain the same as the end of last year. During the pandemic, our bus ridership districtwide significantly decreased. Understandably, this was due to concerns regarding social distancing and quarantining. Fortunately, recent New York safety protocols regarding social distancing and quarantine have significantly changed. **We are therefore strongly encouraging all children to take the bus to and from school.** Please see the Parent Portal for pick-up and drop-off times at the designated bus stops. Please note, during the first few weeks of school, the buses are adjusting to their routes and may be running late. We will notify you if buses leave more than 15 minutes after 3:45.

**Drop-off Arrival:** If dropping off, please note that students will be independently exiting cars on the right side of the building. Once the buses leave, cars can pull up through the front while students get out. Please note that when driving your child to school, students will not be permitted to enter the building until 9:10 as no supervisory coverage is available before then. Students who arrive after 9:20 should sign in at the Main Office and receive a late pass to bring to their classroom teacher.

**Pick-up Dismissal:** If picking up your child, please park in the parking lot adjacent or behind the gym and form a line next to the gym door entrance where you will be asked to sign out your child (please bring your ID). Pick-up students will be dismissed from their classrooms at 3:33PM.

**If your child is not going to take the bus 5 days a week for dismissal, please email Lynne before the first day of school.** Include your child's name, teacher and dismissal schedule for the year. Any last minute changes in dismissal require a written communication from a parent or guardian via email to [llicht@klschools.org](mailto:llicht@klschools.org). All changes in dismissal must be received before 12PM to ensure the information is relayed and followed.

**Attendance:** As a reminder, please call the school in the morning if your child is absent.

**Health and Safety (Covid):** According to the most recent information from NY State regarding Covid, masks and social distancing are no longer required. If your child tests positive or develops symptoms, please contact our school nurse and do not send your child to school. You may also refer to [THIS LINK](#).

**Health and Safety (Drills):** We will be practicing evacuation and lockdown drills at the beginning of the school year, as well as throughout the year. Teachers will prepare their class in advance for the drills. We will notify families each time we conduct a drill.

**Dignity for All Students Act (DASA):** seeks to ensure a safe and supportive environment for all students, free of discrimination, intimidation, harassment, taunting and bullying. If you are aware of an incident or have a concern, please contact one of us listed below. Information about our District's DASA and other related policies can be found on our website at [https://www.klschools.org/dasa\\_bullying](https://www.klschools.org/dasa_bullying).

Ashlyn Field, Principal/ MPES Dignity Act Coordinator 914-763-7900 or [afield@klschools.org](mailto:afield@klschools.org)

David Bournas-Ney, Assistant Principal/ MPES Dignity Act Co- Coordinator 914-763-7914 or [dbournasney@klschools.org](mailto:dbournasney@klschools.org)

Barbara Milone, School Social Worker/ MPES Dignity Act Co-Coordinator 914-763-7952 [bmilone@klschools.org](mailto:bmilone@klschools.org)

**School Supplies:** The school supply lists may be found on our school's website [HERE](#).

**Breakfast:** Based on the Breakfast Survey that was sent out to all families in the spring, we will be implementing a breakfast program for elementary students. Please see the details below about our breakfast program:

- Students who participate will enter the building during arrival time (beginning at 9:10 am) and go directly to the cafeteria.
- "Grab and Go" breakfast bags will be available. Sample items include a bagel, muffin, or breakfast bar along with a fruit with a choice of milk.
- Students will bring their "Grab and Go" breakfast to eat in their classroom during the morning routine.
- Monthly Menus are available on the website.

Breakfast costs \$1.75 and lunch will no longer be free for students. To see if you qualify for the Free and Reduced Priced Meal program (breakfast and/or lunch), please refer to [THIS LINK](#).

At this time, if you are interested in your child receiving breakfast at school, please fill out [THIS FORM](#).

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 Monday afternoon after 4pm for teacher assignments and transportation information.

Soon,

Ashlyn Field, Principal ([afield@klschools.org](mailto:afield@klschools.org))

David Bournas-Ney, Assistant Principal ([dbournasney@klschools.org](mailto:dbournasney@klschools.org))

