

# MAGNOLIA PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

## *The Learning and Achieving School*

420 North Warwick Road, Magnolia, New Jersey, 08049

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August 2019

Dear Students, Parents, and Community:

We hope everyone is having a fantastic summer! The weather has been nice and we have all been working really hard to make sure we are ready here at Magnolia Public for the quickly approaching school year. We can not wait to see our students. Nothing is more enjoyable than sharing conversations, telling stories, and conveying understanding of our world with students.

Something we continue to focus on at Magnolia is raising our expectations. In partnership with you, we want our students to work to the best of their ability. We want them to achieve greatness. Nothing brings greater joy than speaking with our former students who have gone on to Westpoint, the Naval Academy, numerous area colleges, or even to the ones already working locally!

In the new school year we will be continuing to work on our strategic plans centered around three main areas: Social and emotional learning, enhancing student opportunities, and increasing mathematical understanding. We look forward to showcasing our progress in these three areas throughout the year.

In addition to noticing some staff moves, you may see some new faces here at Magnolia. Gunner Loper is our new music instructor. We have two new preschool teachers named Haley Attanasi and Juliette Rayser. We are happy to introduce Maria Petosa, a shared employee from Sterling High School, who will be teaching Latin to our students in grades 5-8. We also welcome a new school psychologist named Brandon Gordon and an additional guidance counselor Jamie Devecchis. Cameron Scalio and Gail Walters will round out our middle school. We also welcome Lauren Darden, teacher assistant. We know they will all be great additions to our family.

In the pages following this letter you will find important information about procedural changes and exciting events happening at school. We hope you enjoy the rest of the summer. We can not wait to continue our partnership in educating our students and we look forward to working together to have a great school year!

Karen Macpherson  
Superintendent

Paul Sorrentino  
Principal

Jennifer Pontarelli  
Supervisor of Curriculum/CST

## Security

Magnolia is committed to the safety and security of our students and school. We have initiated many measures over the past several years to help us maintain and tighten our security. Administratively, we have visited up to 10-20 area schools and attended multiple security trainings provided by the NJ Department of Education to get ideas on how to make our school more secure. Security protocols were then discussed and created through a committee of students, staff, board members, and parents. As we move into the new school year, we would like to take this opportunity to inform you of some new procedures that have been put in place to enhance security. Please adhere to these important safety measures starting in September 2019.

\*\*\*Please note when reading the "Arrival" section that the grounds will be open the first week of school for parents to walk up their child and take photos and interact with the staff.\*\*\*

### Morning Procedure changes:

#### **Breakfast:**

Students going to breakfast may be dropped off when breakfast starts at **8:15AM**. It is imperative this time table be followed for the safety of the children and to allow them to eat. They will enter through the backdoor. There will be a staff member at the entrance taking attendance.

#### **Arrival Time:**

1. All students should enter the school yard between 8:15 and 8:35 AM. No one will be permitted in the building or on school grounds before this time. Students will be entering the building around 8:25 and will be in homeroom by 8:35. Students repeatedly dropped before 8:15 will be documented.
2. It is preferred all students should enter through the back gate at Camden Ave. The Lincoln Ave driveway gate will not be open and is for egress only during emergencies. No students will be permitted through the front office unless late after 8:35AM.
3. Students coming in for music or another school function must have a teacher pass or be on an approved list to enter early. This ensures the students will be supervised for an approved event.
4. Guardians will not be allowed to enter the school or school grounds when dropping off students after the first 3 days of school. (This is to help walk the students to where they need to go, meet and greet, and for photo opportunities. Preschool and Kindergarten parents will be permitted on the grounds until September 30th. ). If you have a unique circumstance or a special need, please notify the office and we will review the case. \*To help in this endeavor, a

select group of 6th - 8th graders will be responsible for walking in our younger students to their line.

5. During inclement weather all the same security measures will still be in place, however students will come onto the grounds at 8:15 and then line up in the gym (1st-4th and 6-8th), library (Pre-K, Kindergarten), and Cafeteria ( 5th).

### **Visitors' Procedures:**

All visitors MUST enter through the front door (main office) where you will be asked for your name and the purpose of your visit. Anyone coming unannounced may be denied entry for security purposes. Visitors will be asked to sign in and/or drop off items at the window. In addition, there will be a storage bin located at the front door for parents to drop off items, such as lunches, bookbags, instruments, etc. Please label all items with the student's name and their homeroom teacher.

Anyone without a yellow "visitor" sticker will be stopped and escorted to the office to follow proper sign-in procedures. \*If you are a visitor we kindly ask you go to and from your assigned location only. Please do not feel free to go to any other location in the building.

### **Front Driveway:**

The front driveway will only be utilized for emergency vehicles, handicap access, and school sanctioned transportation vehicles. The driveway is not to be used to drop off items, students, or pick up students early.

### **Departure Procedures:**

Students will be dismissed at approximately 3:07PM. They will be walked to the back gate by their teachers to be dismissed. Parents/Guardians are to wait in the assigned area (there are numbers and letters to help children link up with their family. For example: There will be a sign on the fence with a K on it, this is the area where kindergarten students and parents will meet) Any student still outside after 3:20 will be sent to the office. No students or parents should remain on school grounds after 3:20PM. Students repeatedly not picked up by 3:20 will be documented.

No students will be permitted down the front driveway for safety reasons. All students are to be picked up, dropped off, or walk to the Camden Ave gate entrance.

Early Pickups between the time of 2:50 and 3:07PM will not be honored through the main office unless there is an emergency situation. Any early pickups should have a note submitted to the office the day prior or morning prior to pickup.

\*Students waiting for siblings to walk home will wait on the basketball court where a teacher will be assigned for duty.

### **Preschool Drop off/Pick up**

Preschool students will enter like all other students, but parents will be permitted to wait with their children until they enter the building. (On inclement weather days (rain/snow/freezing temp), the foyer may be opened up for waiting parents and students)

The AM program is dismissed at 11:07AM. Dismissal will be at the front gate by the shed.

The PM drop off at 12:30PM will wait at the front gate by the shed.

### **Parking and pick up Lane**

Parking on Camden Ave is permitted while waiting for your child. If you are stopping or parking, the school asks that you pull over to the side of the road and park on the curb line. The middle of the street is a flowing lane for pick up traffic. Please keep the pick up lane moving. If your child is not ready to be picked up, you may have to circle around again to prevent a traffic problem.

\*We appreciate your cooperation in implementing these measures, which will enhance our security and the safety of students, staff, and the community. We understand this is a big change and it will take time to implement. We at Magnolia take pride in our "small town feel" but the end result will be a safer more organized way to run our before and after school procedures. We thank everyone for their valued effort to help us put these measures in place.

Questions can be directed to administration. There will also be an opportunity to get more information at the August board meeting from 6-7PM, as well as at our Back to School Bonanza on August 28th from 1-3PM.

Thank you,

Magnolia Board of Education and Administration