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August 22, 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian(s):

It is our pleasure to welcome you to your student's 6<sup>th</sup> grade school year. We understand that this is probably not how you envisioned your son's or daughter's transition from elementary to middle school. For many of us, we are adapting to working, learning, and socializing remotely in ways that we have not had to do so before. It is a confusing time, and we commend you for being adaptable and patient as we all are trying to figure out what our "new normal" looks like. This letter will provide you with an update about plans for an Open House along with many important dates.

Pursuant to Governor Whitmer's Michigan Safe Schools: Return to School Roadmap, along with the Michigan Department of Education, we are adhering to safety protocols to keep our school community safe. With that in mind, the Open House welcoming students back to school this year will be a remote video posted by August 28<sup>th</sup>.

We understand that the transition to middle school can pose some anxious moments for students new to the building. Please know that our staff is working diligently to make this transition as smooth as possible for your son or daughter. Two of the most common stressors for new students are opening a combination locker and navigating the hallways to find classrooms. Note that students will not be using lockers to begin the school year as we are limiting the movement of students, especially in large groups. When students are issued lockers this year, we will develop a lesson to teach and then practice the skill of using a combination lock. Staff members will be escorting students from class to class, so students will become efficient at navigating the hallways.

In addition, we will be developing social and emotional lessons for our students to address the thoughts and concerns students might have about starting a new school year in 2020. If you feel your son or daughter needs additional support to address concerns about starting the new school year, please give us a call to discuss an individualized plan.

Below, please find additional "save the date" items:

- **In-person** student schedules may be picked up August 26<sup>th</sup> – August 27<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. These stations will be outside the front of the middle school.
- August 28<sup>th</sup> Virtual Open House grades 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup>.
- August 31<sup>st</sup> and September 1<sup>st</sup> – laptops for virtual learning are available for pick up. Times and locations will be shared via the Blackboard Instant Alert System.
- First day of School – September 2<sup>nd</sup>

It is our goal to make the start of this school year a positive experience for all students and parents. Please feel free to contact me if I can assist in any way with your child's transition to middle school. Another great way to obtain additional information is by going to the school website: [www.madisonk12.us](http://www.madisonk12.us)

Sincerely,

Brad Anschuetz, Middle School Principal

Karla Fisher, Guidance Counselor Middle School