

PIC MEETING AGENDA

April 14, 2020

1. **Welcome** - Margie Rafferty-Criscione

2. **Whitson's Update** - Jessica Ritz

3. **Update on Revised Criteria for Middle School Honor Roll** - Mr. Currie

As Last summer the three middle school principals began to review and evaluate the current middle school honor roll criteria. This past fall, through the District Assessment Committee (consisting of district and building administrators, teachers, and guidance counselors), formal discussions and research was conducted to change the criteria. We ran several scenarios through PowerSchool with current middle school students to help evaluate any proposals that were being discussed. After several months of work and discussion, this [New Middle School Honor Roll Criteria](#) was agreed upon by the committee. In the above mentioned document, you will see the current middle school criteria, the new criteria, Middletown's high school criteria, and criteria of the several school districts we used in our research. This new criteria will be in effect starting with the 2020-2021 school year. Below is the bullet point summary of our changes and philosophies:

- ***New High Honor Roll Qualifications:*** 92% in ALL classes or 92% in all but one class with no more than one grade between 85 and 91.
- ***New Honor Roll Qualifications:*** 80% in all classes.
- *Criteria standard that is closer to the high school criteria and that of other middle schools.*
- *Elimination of the point system.*
- *Elimination of letter grade and alignment to numerical grading system.*
- *The new criteria allows for an individual course grade to be lower than the minimum for high honor roll.*
- *Simpler criteria to determine students who qualify, and for students to set personal academic achievement goals.*

4. **Virtual Home Instruction Update** - Dr. George, Mrs. Pickus

[The Virtual Home Instruction page on the district website](#) includes links to many facets of the plan as well as recent revisions based on the extension of virtual instruction into May.

- *The district has created an on-site technical support helpdesk which averages about 5 to 10 repair requests per day. Technicians are available (by appointment only) each day: Monday, Wednesday and Friday between 8 AM to 12 PM @ HSN. Social distancing safety procedures are in place to protect staff and visitors: the on-site helpdesk is drop-off/pick-up only; students, parents and staff are prohibited from waiting for repairs. As they drop off devices they are immediately issued a new one. Drop-off/pick-up transactions take place outdoors w/ a 6 foot distancing zone and devices are sanitized upon retrieval/issuance.*

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- *General education teachers and instructional support specialists have established times throughout each day during which they are available for students to provide direct instruction, modeling, conferencing, reteaching, enrichment, tiered intervention, G&T, etc. Middle and High Schools students/teachers have abbreviated block times to avoid being “double” booked and also ensure that there is adequate time during the day for students to get their work completed and teachers to have sufficient time to plan and prepare for virtual instruction. Elementary students/teachers have dedicated instruction blocks, “office hours” for additional contact/support time with teachers, new virtual special subject lessons, special area choice boards, etc. throughout the week. A new online platform, Imagine Learning, can be accessed by elementary students to further support personalized learning goals with regard to many aspects of mathematics and literacy skills- phonics, phonemic awareness, decoding, comprehension, writing. The revised schedules continue to be **suggested** schedules to keep students on track for success with meeting work requirements and grade level expectations as well as an ability to interact virtually with staff and peers. Lessons/assignments continue to be posted daily prior to the established “start” of the virtual school day for each grade level. Students continue to have the flexibility to complete and submit assignments throughout the day up until 11:59pm.*
- *Special education teachers are hosting Google Hangouts and presenting lessons. Teachers are scheduling individual video conferencing with students to review strategies, practice skills and answer questions. Some special class program teachers have been checking in with parents via the remind app and arranging conversations with parents to reinforce what the students were taught in the previous lesson. Preschool students were sent home with a calendar of daily activities based on the Creative Curriculum and some have been hosting virtual morning meetings through the SeeSaw app and FlipGrid as appropriate.*
- *Child Study Teams and related service providers have created a website and continually add important information and resources. Virtual CST meetings and related services sessions are scheduled, as appropriate and necessary.*
- *Guidance Counselors, SBSSs and SACs have been scheduling individual sessions with students/parents/staff members, have implemented grief counseling, continue to assist students with rescheduling of AP testing, review and discuss student course selections for next year, assist with college and scholarship applications, arrange free/reduced breakfast and lunch access, and create the 2020-21 student and school schedules as would normally be occurring at this time of year.*
- *School nurses continue to work with the Central Registrar to facilitate new student registrations. They have been active in webinars and coronavirus related Health Department training as well as COVID case management. Most recently, all nurses were or are in the process of being trained as case managers for the Middletown Township Board of Health. They have all volunteered to work for the MTBoH outside*

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of school hours. They will review cases, answer residents' questions, provide guidance and counseling to individuals testing positive, identify contacts of a person with COVID-19 in order to contact them and provide guidance, follow-up with individuals, and provide assistance to the MTBoH as needed. With the large number of Middletown residents testing positive, the service of our nurses has helped the MTBoH provide assistance and guidance to individuals in a timely manner and help reduce the spread of COVID-19 in our town.

- *In addition to supporting student and teacher needs for varied print and online resources the Media Specialists collaborated with curriculum department administrators to create the [MTPS Virtual Library & Reading Challenge](#) initiative.*
- *Paraprofessionals have completed over 11,000 hours of important professional development training over the past few weeks in order to further enhance their ability to support students in the traditional classroom environment as well as in the virtual learning "world", as needed and appropriate. A parent and teacher survey was sent last week to those who have/work with students with IEPs that include paraprofessional related services to determine where paras can be of assistance to support students in the virtual learning environment. A plan to begin introducing paraprofessionals in the virtual learning environment will be implemented, on a gradual rolling basis, at the end of this week.*

5. Provisional plans for proms and graduations in the event virtual home instruction is extended through June - Mrs. Walker

High school and district administration would welcome ending the school year with the ability to hold our traditional senior proms and high school graduation. However, it is uncertain whether we will end the school year in the virtual environment or back in the classroom. To ensure we are prepared to provide these senior experiences, to the extent possible, our high school administrators and staff have worked on plans for both scenarios. We are waiting for further direction from the Governor, and do not want to rule out holding these events in the traditional manner at this time. But if necessary, we are prepared to provide virtual experiences for the students.

6. Update on YMCA Before and Aftercare Program - Dr. George

The YMCA has issued a 2 week credit in the system from the month of March, and did not draft anyone for the month of April. The YMCA is taking things one month at a time and will adjust accounts accordingly, pending the Governor's decision on when schools reopen. If school remains closed through the end of the school year, parents may use their credit as their deposit for next year. However, if a parent requests [a refund](#), the YMCA will accommodate the request.

Although schools are closed, the YMCA office manager and VP of Child Achievement are working and running Emergency Child Care for Essential Employees. Anyone with questions can reach out to them at 732-566-9266.

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In addition, in response to the COVID-19 outbreak, YMCA of Greater Monmouth County is now offering telehealth counseling to support the emotional and social well-being of our students. Licensed Y counselors have been trained and equipped in phone and video conferencing technology in order to maintain extensive support for adults, youth, families and schools, through all of their outpatient counseling services. Prior to beginning virtual instruction, our partnership with the YMCA provided counseling services for students in all 17 schools. The transition to telehealth services is important due to the existing relationships between the counselors, our students and their families who view the YMCA counselors as part of our district staff. The YMCA will be releasing a press release this week with more information on telehealth services.

7. MTFOdL

- **MTFOdL Parent Meeting Tuesday 4/12/2020**
 - a. 7:00 - 9:00 PM via Zoom platform
 - b. Request meeting invitation at mtfodl@gmail.com

- **Administrator-SEPAG Meeting minutes for 3/27/20 are available**

- **Dyslexia Spring Presentation - Cancelled**

8. Board of Education Update - John Little, Deborah Wright

9. Old Business

10. New Business

11. Informational Items

- a. PIC on twitter <https://twitter.com/picchairk12>
- b. PIC on the district site <https://www.middlestownk12.org/domain/2624>

NEXT MEETING - Possibly May

BE WELL, STAY SAFE, AND WE WILL SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN