



# Muskegon Heights Public School Academy System

2441 Sanford, Muskegon Heights, MI 49444  
Phone 231-830-3703 • Fax 231-830-3755 • [mhtigers.org](http://mhtigers.org)

August 10, 2021

Dear Muskegon Heights Community and MHPSAS Tiger Families:

Welcome to the 2021-22 school year at Muskegon Heights Public School Academy System! We hope you and your family have stayed healthy and safe while enjoying the summer. We look forward to a new school year of learning together with you and your students.

The health and safety of every member of our Tiger family is one of our top priorities. Planning for the start of our school year is based on science surrounding the pandemic, including current COVID cases, mitigation effectiveness, and vaccination rates. Should the district receive any public health orders from Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) or the Muskegon County Health Department (MCHD), or new information from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), adjustments may be necessary. Athletics will minimally adhere to rules set forth by MDHHS and the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA). All communication regarding health protocols will be communicated through our school messaging systems. **If you prefer your messages to come through text instead of phone calls please text 'Y' or 'Yes' to 67587**

As of today, August 9, the following plan is in place to start the 2021-2022 school year:

- **In-Person Learning** - MHPSAS will return to our normal schedule for in-person learning. The first day of school is: Monday, August 30, 2021.
- **Virtual/Live Streaming** – MHPSAS will offer a virtual option for students registered through the application process. Students will be expected to be logged in to their classes and be “present” during the same days and hours as in person students. **If you would like to choose virtual/live stream classes please complete this form by Monday, August 16: [bit.ly/21-22learning](https://bit.ly/21-22learning)**
- **Mask wearing:** Face coverings **will be required for everyone** while in any of the MHPSAS buildings. All staff, students, and guests will wear a mask properly over their mouth and nose when not eating or drinking. This decision was made due to the following facts:
  - CDC recommends all individuals wear masks in school buildings.
  - Muskegon County COVID cases are in the "substantial" range - in which the CDC recommends masking indoors.
- **Safety/Health Protocols and Expectations** - The academy system will provide masks to anyone who may need one. Proper handwashing and use of sanitizer will continue to be encouraged as well as social distancing. Staff and students will have their temperature taken prior to boarding buses and upon arrival to the building. Anyone with a temperature of over **100.4 or higher** will not be permitted to board the bus or enter a building.
- **Illness-** Staff and students who are feeling ill will be expected to stay home until symptoms subside.



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- **COVID Vaccination** - Vaccinations are now widely available for anyone age 12 and older. The COVID vaccination is not a requirement to attend school at MHPSAS. There has been a lot of attention on encouraging all eligible individuals to receive a vaccination. That is a personal family decision. If you are in need of information or resources to get vaccinated, please reach out to your building principal.
- **MHPSAS Activities** - Students may engage in our athletic, fine arts, enrichment, and extracurricular activities before and after the school day. Students will have access to Project Focus, Boys and Girls Club, athletics, fine arts, and other enriching programs. Please watch for information packets to arrive from your building.
- **Uniforms**- This year, uniforms will not be required, you are welcome to utilize the uniform if you choose that option for your children.

In closing, we thank you for your patience, commitment, partnership, and for entrusting your children to us. This past school year amplified the need for us to continue our partnerships with Hackley Community Care and Health West (My Alliance) for whole child support. Both agencies are active in providing needed services to students and families. If you need more information about how to access services, please contact your building principal for assistance.

We are grateful for the grace and support you have extended to our public school academy system. Students, families, community, staff, and the MHPSAS Board of Directors are certain to have a bright future because **together we rise!**

Sincerely,  
*Rané M. Garcia*  
Mrs. Rané Garcia  
Superintendent (last day August 20)

*Dr. Arnetta P. Thompson*  
Dr. Arnetta Thompson  
Superintendent (beginning August 15)