



Newport Mill Middle School PTSA
11311 Newport Mill Road
Kensington, MD 20895

Join/Renew your membership of the PTSA here:

<https://nmms.new.memberhub.store/>

NMMS PTSA General Membership Meeting

January 12, 2021

Welcome

Meeting called to order at 7:05pm

Ms Tsonis Updates

Should any student or parent need anything please don't hesitate to reach out to the school. Parents have been quiet. At times the teachers are mentioning they are having difficulty getting in touch with parents with academic concerns about their kids. Making sure teachers are being flexible and thinking outside the box.

Gift Cards: Thank you to the PTSA because we received the Amazon gift cards. It was heartwarming and we miss seeing the community. Thank you for your commitment to the school. We have been working hard to ensure teachers are working with our kids to ensure their success.

When schools will be open: In person School has been delayed until March 15. We know what you know. Metrics are not ready for us to open 50% of each grade level said they wanted to come back (hybrid). There will be another opportunity to reassess whether you want to remain 'going back' or not upcoming. Currently 73 students are set to be coming in (6th graders) first. Will be working out the details on how that will look like. The bell schedule will remain the same, but your student's actual class schedule might change so students can be together that want to come back. Also not clear which teachers will be monitoring students. No more than 12 students per class. Can't necessarily fit 12 students spaced out in a classroom. Some classes will be small, lunch will be in the classroom. It will not be school in the way we all recognize. Building services are starting to look at the set up.

Scheduling 2021-22: The school received the course bulletin just recently, so are now finalizing that by Friday and then will go to parents. Ms Tsonis has reached out to the

elementary schools already. Newport staff will be training teachers at the elementary schools and Newport on how to train kids on how to register for their classes next year. If we're back in March/April we can do something in person, but there will be a recorded session regardless. Mid-February the school will receive the enrichment testing results from the elementary school and will work on placement

New registration process:

- Jan 12 -22 - Teacher recommendations due
- Jan 26, 27 - 6 & 7th graders review their course requests
- Feb 2nd - 5th graders select courses
- Feb 4th - 8th graders select HS courses
- Jan 28 - Feb 8 - Parents can review students' requests

8th graders: HS counselors will be coming into Zoom classes for the 8th graders and walking them through the sign up process for next year. Hopefully we will have the student's HS choices and students will join Zooms specific to their high schools. Teacher recommendations will be starting this week into next week. Only change will be that IM removed and replaced with Math 6th plus

Course Bulletin available Jan 19th with course descriptions, review process, change process...

Counseling - SOS (Signs of Suicide) Parent Training

Ms Cole (7th), Ms Turverey (8th), Ms Scott (6th), Mr Riley (Psychologist)

The session was recorded as this is our training to parents for Signs Of Suicide. The information in the recording, as well as the recording, will be made available to parents. A parent focused video went out to parents and is available. Students will take SOS training in March
Acknowledge signs, Care, Tell a trusted adult (ACT)

Question: Has some thought gone into getting students back into the routine September? Yes, we have been thinking about this all along. Logistics, helping thought processes of is it safe to go into a building, how to get back to 'normal' schooling after this 'new normal'?

What kind of discussions are occurring between counselors and staff regarding changes in students?

Staff gets crisis training at the start of the school year, and there will be SOS training. Staff is quick to contact grade level counselors when something going on with students that is different than it has been with that student. A lot of concern by staff. Staff are trained to know what to look for. There is a student wellbeing team that staff can work with to keep students engaged.

Encourage students to have cameras on as it helps teachers get to know students and helps students engage with their teachers and classmates.

See the slides on the next page for resources and signs of depression

Resource Guide

Parent's Mental Health Resource Guide

EveryMind (Partners with MCPS, located in Rockville)

Montgomery County Crisis Center (located at the Mid County DHHS Building in Rockville, 240-777-4000)

SOS Flyers (within this presentation)

- [ACT](#)
- [Learn to ACT](#)

Phone Numbers For Help

- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 800-273-8255 (24/7)
- Montgomery County Hotline at 301-738-2255 (24/7)
- 7 days/week from 8 a.m. to midnight [chat](#) with us or text us at 301-738-2255

TIPS/Helpful Websites

- [Signs of Depression](#)
- [Guidelines for Reporting Suicidal Content on SOCIAL MEDIA](#)
- [MCPS Waymaking Videos: Conversation with Director of MCPS CRISIS CENTER](#)
- [MCPS Mental Health & Crisis Support Page](#)
- [InfoMONTGOMERY](#)
- [Talking to your kids about Mental Health](#)
- [Talking to your kids about recent deaths by suicide](#)

Signs & Symptoms of Depression

Depressed mood (may be sad, feeling down, grouchy, or irritable)

Changes in typical behavior (goes from sad/withdrawn to happy or happy to sad/withdrawn)

Changes in sleeping patterns (too much, too little, or disturbed)

Changes in weight or appetite (decreased or increased)

Speaking and/or moving with unusual speed or slowness

Loss of interest or pleasure in usual activities

Withdrawal from family and friends

Feelings of worthlessness, self-reproach, or guilt

Feelings of hopelessness or depression

Diminished ability to think or concentrate, slowed thinking, or indecisiveness

Thoughts of death, suicide, or wanting to be dead

Extreme anxiety, agitation, or enraged behavior

Neglect of physical health

Excessive drug and/or alcohol use

Fundraising Update

No fundraisers upcoming at the moment but we will notify the community as soon as we are able to arrange the next one.

February 9th next meeting. We will have outside speakers.

Meeting adjourned at 8:12pm