

Miller Junior High
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Lisa Griebel, Principal
Joan Hoehn, Assistant Principal

Miller Junior High “Home of the Bobkittens”

August 14, 2020

Welcome students, parents, and guardians to the 2020-2021 school year! We appreciate our community's flexibility and support as we begin our year with Anywhere Learning in order to keep our students, families, and staff healthy during a global pandemic. We remain hopeful our community will come together to wear masks, practice social distancing, and limit social contacts so we can bring students back to Miller Junior High as soon as it is safe to do so.

We have complete confidence that Miller Junior High will continue to deliver high quality instruction from caring adults even when our students are not physically sitting in front of us.

Please take note of the following dates:

8/20 MJH Office “Opens”
8/25, 8/26, 8/27, and 8/28 BobKitten Days
9/2, 9/3, and 9/4 Smart Start
9/7 Labor Day No School
9/8 Anywhere Learning Begins

Miller Office “Opens”

Our office at MJH “opens” on August 20. Our August office hours are 8-3. The phone number for our office is 360 581-2100 and you are able to leave a message. You can also email the following staff:

Jeannie McNeal, Office Manager jmcneal@asd5.org
Joan Hoehn, Assistant Principal jhoehn@asd5.org
Lisa Griebel, Principal lgriebel@asd5.org

Students and families will have **limited access** inside the building. Please ring the “buzzer” at our front office door, and a staff member will assist you at the window as soon as possible. Dropping something off? There is a locked drop box outside the office if needed. We ask that students and families remain outside. Even outside our window, please wear a mask and maintain social distancing. This change in our service delivery model is a difficult adjustment for us as we are accustomed to a warm, friendly, vibrant office filled with families and the sounds of laughter. Thanks for your patience as we learn together how to provide you with what you need, but in a safe and healthy way.

BobKitten Days- August 25, 26, 27, and 28

All Aberdeen schools will have a version of “Bobkitten Days” before school starts. Formerly known as Back to School Days, families come to MJH to collect “Go Boxes” with school supplies, Chromebooks, and other items needed to successfully start school in an Anywhere Learning format. We have divided the pick-up days by grade level. If choosing to come on a

different day, please be patient as we find your child's supplies. We are flexible and understand families might need to come on one of the other Bobkitten Days or if families have more than one child at Miller Junior High.

August 25 Grade 8 Noon to 6 PM
August 26 Grade 7 Noon to 6 PM
August 27 Grade 6 Noon to 6 PM
August 28 Any grade Noon to 6 PM

Smart Start

All Aberdeen schools will start the year with "Smart Start". Smart Start is similar to Student Led Conferencing. Advisory teachers will "meet" via Zoom with individual student families to help familiarize the family with Anywhere Learning and answer any questions the family might have. Smart Start will occur the first three days of school, 9/2-9/5. We are currently working on scheduling these conferences, which will be a Zoom conference. Stay tuned for more information!

School Supplies

Our district will provide basic school supplies for all students. These will be available for pick up during Bobkitten Days. The supplies will come in a tub with a lid that a student can use to store them at home or use as a makeshift desk for their Chromebook! Supplies include: 3-ring binder, Tabbed subject dividers, Zipper pouch to store supplies, Blue or black Pens, Pencils, College-rule notebook paper, Highlighters, Colored pencils, glue stick, markers, calculator, ear buds, and scissors. Some grade level specific school supplies or instructional books will also be included.

Sports Information

Offering sports opportunities in a healthy and safe way during a pandemic can be challenging. In addition to the recommendations from our governor and OSPI (Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction) for schools in counties considered "moderate risk, our school district considers guidelines from the WIAA (Washington Interscholastic Activities Association) and our local sports' league. **We are NOT offering any fall middle school sports.**

School Pictures Day:

MJH will be scheduling school pictures when we can make sure that it can be done in a health and safe way!

Welcome New Miller Teachers!

Please join us in welcoming our new to Miller teachers. Welcome: Paige Pierog, Grade 6; Shon Schreiber, Grade 7; Todd Bridge, Grade 8; and Erik Peterson, Orchestra.

Classes, Teams, and Teachers

The course offerings for MJH students have changed. Each student will take advisory, math, science, social studies, and science. PE will not be offered as a class, but as non-graded activities tracked and turned into their advisory teacher. Students needing a higher-level math class will be scheduled into that math class as needed as the year progresses. Students will be placed on a teacher "team". A team is four teachers (one math, one science, one social studies, and one science) sharing a common group of students. A student also has an advisory teacher, which is usually one of their team teachers. The only elective classes available are music classes- Band, Vocal Music, and Orchestra. Due to the pandemic, the academic program of Miller students resembles more of an elementary model.

Special Services information

Does your student have an IEP or a 504 Plan? After you have picked up your student's schedule, if you have questions regarding the schedule, please contact the appropriate grade level:

Special Education teacher 6th Grade: Mark Borgens. mborgens@asd5.org

Special Education teacher 7th Grade: Stacie Fesler. stfesler@asd5.org

Special Education teacher 8th Grade: Jamie Sutton. jsutton@asd5.org

Counselor 6th Grade 504: Thad Williams. thwilliams@asd.org

Counselor 7th Grade 504: Cathy Trusty. ctrusty@ad5.org

Counselors 8th Grade 504:

Thad Williams: students scheduled with Bridge, Leitch, G Harless or Garman

Cathy Trusty: students scheduled with M Harless, Tageant, Carle, or Williamson

Student Daily Schedule

The actual daily schedule of classes during distance learning will be provided after our district makes those decisions. We will publish this information when released, and it will be explained to your student and family during the Smart Start conferences. We all learned a great deal during last year's school closure about how to deliver more effective and engaging distance learning. Our students, families, and staff provided essential input, and we are confident that the distance learning provided this new school year will be rigorous, yet flexible. Student attendance, participation, engagement, and work completion is required; and student work will be graded. We do anticipate beginning class by 8:00 AM each morning so now is the time to start shifting your student's sleep schedule!

Back to School Paperwork

Paperwork, Paperwork, Paperwork. Returning to school each fall is always filled with mounds of papers to sign. This year is no exception, EXCEPT this will be done online. Families needing assistance with this will be helped during Smart Start Conferences.

Student Lunch and Breakfast

Information will be provided soon on how Aberdeen's students engaged in Anywhere Learning (Distance Learning) can access meals.

Information will continue to be shared! Please continue to check our Miller website and Miller Facebook page for updates! We will email students and use our Blackboard Connect phone calls to families to communicate as well. If you have any questions, please contact us! Feel free to email lgriebel@asd5.org or jhoehn@asd5.org.

Sincerely,

Lisa Griebel
Principal
Miller Junior High