



MERRIMACK HIGH SCHOOL

38 McElwain Street

Merrimack, New Hampshire 03054

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Steve Claire
Principal

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Dear MHS Students and Parent/Guardians,

I hope you are enjoying this year's summer break. Preparations for next school year's academic and co-curricular programs are well underway. We are excited to welcome our students back to the first day of school on August 28th.

To give you planning time, I am sending some information that I hope will be helpful.

ID WEEK:

- MHS Students must have a **current year ID** with them during the school day.
- We hold "ID Week" before school starts so that students can have a current ID with them on the first day of school, and to not use academic time for printing IDs.
- IDs are used for checking in and out of the building, cafeteria purchases, learning commons usage, and some extracurricular events.
- No headgear, props, or sunglasses may be worn for ID Photos.
- To alleviate long lines, please try to come on the day your class is assigned. However, to accommodate work and vacation schedules, if you cannot come on your assigned day, you may come during any other open hours.
- If you cannot come to ANY of the open hours, please contact the main office to make alternate arrangements.
- The following items can also be picked up during ID Week:
 - **Senior and Junior** Parking Permits (see Parking section.)
 - Schedule Change Form
 - QR Code will be available for locker requests

ID Week Schedule:

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| • Monday, August 18 th , 8:00 am – 2:00 pm | Seniors |
| • Tuesday, August 19 th , 8:00 am – 2:00 pm | Juniors |
| • Wednesday, August 20 th , 8:00 am – 2:00 pm | Sophomores |
| • Thursday, August 21 st , 8:00 am – 2:00 pm | Freshmen |
| • Thursday, August 21 st , 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm | Open to all |
| • Friday, August 22 nd , 8:00 am – 2:00 pm | Open to all |
| • Monday, August 25 th , 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm | Open to all |



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POWERSCHOOL REGISTRATION:

- Merrimack School District uses PowerSchool as the Student Information System throughout the district.
- PowerSchool allows students and parents immediate access to grades and attendance records.
- PowerSchool now allows the ability for parents to report absences, tardies, and dismissals directly from their Parent PowerSchool account, without having to call in.
- PowerSchool is also the method for **registering your student(s) and filling out emergency information for the nurse's office.**
- Please be on the lookout for an **email that will come directly from PowerSchool around the start of the school year** for the link to register your student and check your emergency information. **It is essential** that this is completed in order for the nurse's office to have your emergency information, even if it is the same as last year. We cannot print emergency cards for students who have not been registered through this system.
- This registration is far easier than filling out multiple copies of paper forms – most information just needs to be verified from the previous year, and sibling information can be copied to all schools across the district.
- If you do not currently have a Parent PowerSchool account, please stop by the MHS Main Office or the School Counseling Office to create one. We must create accounts in person for privacy purposes.

CHROMEBOOKS:

- The Merrimack School District provides a 1:1 device (Chromebook) to grade 5-12 students.
- It is recommended that families obtain device coverage to help cover the cost of potential incidental repairs. The nominal fee for 2025-26 is \$10 per student.
- You may register and pay for incidental repair coverage through MySchoolBucks until October 31st. More information will be posted on the school's home page in the coming days.



- Further information will be distributed via email regarding Chromebook usage and device distribution to freshmen and transfer students.

STUDENT PARKING:

- The permit fee is \$50.00.
- All outstanding MHS fees **MUST** be paid before you can get a permit.
- Please read the parking rules carefully as given out, as they are strictly enforced.
- **ALL paved lots at MHS require a parking permit.**
- **Sophomores are NOT allowed to purchase a permit for the 1st semester. Permits will be opened to a limited amount of Sophomores 2nd semester. Please pay attention to announcements in mid-January.**

There are always many questions about parking – here are a few FAQs:

- ***Why can't everyone get a parking pass right away?*** We have around 325 student parking spaces available at MHS. With class sizes around 260, we cannot accommodate every student driver in the school.
- ***How do I get a permit?*** Seniors and juniors may purchase permits during ID week, and during the first week of school. See below for the procedure.
- ***I'm a Senior or Junior who doesn't have my license yet. Can I buy a permit?*** You can purchase a permit as soon as you get your license! Since we are allowing purchases throughout the year, there is no need to "hold" a permit.
- ***I'm a student who will be attending CTE at Nashua or Alvirne. What do I do?*** CTE students who drive themselves to a morning program and arrive back to MHS around 3rd period will be given a special permit and a number of dedicated spaces will be held for them in one of the O'Gara lots. CTE students who start their day at MHS and leave for an afternoon program will receive a normal student permit since they should be arriving at the normal start time.
- ***I'm a Sophomore and am getting my license this year. Can I buy a permit?*** Due to the limited number of spaces available, **sophomores are not allowed to purchase a permit at any time during the first semester.** They are allowed to park in the "dirt lot" or skate park area near JMUES without a permit.
- ***Why are there empty student parking spaces when I drop off or pick up my student?*** We have Juniors and Seniors who are allowed to have late arrival or early release and may not arrive until 2nd period, or may leave for 8th period, so there can be many open spaces first thing in the morning or at the end of the day. We also have students who attend CTE classes at Nashua or Alvirne who come and go throughout the day. And, of course, we always have student absences. We do oversell the spaces to account for student absences – if everyone with a permit were ever all at school at the same time, there would not be enough parking spots.
- ***How early do I need to be at school to get a parking spot?*** After careful consideration, this year we will continue to oversell parking permits to any senior or junior who wants one. This does mean that students **WILL** have to park in the farthest lots along O'Gara Drive if they arrive later to school. Students may **NEVER** park in the faculty/staff parking lot or the visitor spaces, even if they are running late. Please plan accordingly. Even if they have a permit, due to the number of permits sold, late students may need to park in the "dirt lot" if the student lots are full.

PROCEDURE:

- **Seniors and Juniors ONLY:** Please visit <https://forms.gle/Ljb1wRWycGViETGq8> or scan the QR code below PRIOR to ID Week, using your school email.
- This is the official application form.
- Once this is complete, you can pick up and pay for the permit during ID Week and from Tuesday, September 2 – Friday, September 5 in the main office. Payment is by cash or check made out to MHS. **Please bring your license and car's registration.**



- Beginning **Monday, September 8th, 2025**, all students parked in any paved student lot **MUST** have a permit. Those cars in the lots without stickers are subject to ticketing and/or towing at the student's expense, and multiple violations will affect the ability to receive a permit in the future. (Please see the Student/Parent Handbook for complete parking rules.)

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL (Thursday, August 28th) - Freshmen and transfer students will arrive at 7:30 am for orientation. All other students will arrive at 9:30 am. Please look for more emails from me in the next week or so for a more detailed schedule.

Also, you will soon be receiving information regarding our updated cell phone policy in the mail.

We truly thank you for the support that MHS received from the Merrimack community during the 2024-25 academic year. We are looking forward to working together with you all to have a successful, safe, and happy 2025-26!

Sincerely,

Steve Claire
Principal
Merrimack High School

