

Mann Parent Email August 16, 2021

Good Evening Mann Parents:

I hope this email finds you and your families well and ready for the start of school on Thursday! I have 3 items for you tonight:

The first is the link (below) for the Google Parent Form that I mentioned in an earlier email. This is not anything that is required but an opportunity to tell us anything you want us to know about your child or to request contact from a Mann MS team member for a specific need or question. The link will only be active through Wednesday evening 8/18.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc5Y_3LCJe_sTbDdtIUZxDLL40EcM-H8se6yAlfFydz3x7ZWA/viewform?usp=sf_link

The second is an answer regarding how we will handle masks at Mann MS. We recognize that every family at Mann MS has their own situations, needs and wishes for personal safety and health. At this time, masks are not required by the district but are encouraged and respected for a family or child's health and well-being. We will teach and model for our students respect for a person's right to wear a mask or to not wear a mask. There may be times when wearing a mask for health reasons is expected or required and we are going to help our students value and respect all persons and situations. If you are at Mann MS for any reason and would want a faculty member near you to wear a mask, simply let us know and we will honor your request. We have faculty members who will be wearing masks throughout school.

The last information for tonight are details on HB4545 which was made into law this summer. The law has 2 parts. The first is that all students who failed a STAAR Math or Reading test in the spring of 2021 receive "supplemental instruction (tutoring) before or after school or embedded in the school day." Students are required to have one hour each week for 30 weeks for each test this year. We are working on providing tutoring times for students before school (7:30 to 8 a.m.) and after school from 4 to 5 p.m. to take care of the hourly requirements. We know that some students may not be able to attend before or after school tutorials so we are working on providing tutoring through math support classes that would replace one elective in the student's school day (your child may already be in a class called math lab or Algebra support which would allow us to provide the required tutorial time.)

We are also working on reading tutorials with a plan that will be detailed in a later letter and email. This law is applied to the STAAR Math and Reading tests and is not affected by the grades a student may have earned. The law is written for the tutoring group size to be limited to 3 students per tutor; however, the state does allow for a waiver that would enable tutoring groups to be larger than 3 students to 1 adult tutor. I have attached the waiver to this email which we will be sending home with students on Monday, August 23rd. If your child failed one or both of the STAAR Math or Reading tests, please have a conversation about how this requirement can best be met and call your grade level assistant principal or counselor if you need adjustments to the schedule for a math support class.

[HB 4545 Parent Waiver Group Size.pdf](#)

The second part of HB4545 requires incoming 6th grade students who failed a math or reading STAAR to have an Accelerated Learning Committee make a plan for student success for this school year. If you are a parent of a 6th grade who will have the ALC meeting, you can expect a phone call or letter from Mrs. Amy Dudley, 6th grade assistant principal.

I know this is a lot of information and there is still more to come. In all things, we want you to know we care about your child and want to do everything we can for the success of each student. Please let me know if I can help in any way and hooray for the first day on Thursday!

Kathy Walker, Mann MS Principal