

Dear Parents,

Welcome to a New Academic Year.

The Art of Learning

As we commence the year, a recent event at the Rhode Island Newport Folk Festival reminded me of the importance of having an 'open mindset' and more importantly resilience to navigate the 'hurdles of learning' and life. At the festival, a famous artist of the Seventies – Joni Mitchell presented a song '[Both Sides Now](#)' – a classic of the era. It was the first time she had played in public for a decade. What was remarkable was that she had suffered a brain aneurysm in 2015 and not only had to relearn the song, but how to play the guitar again also. She used You Tube to re-learn the guitar, made mistakes, and persevered to present a famous, iconic and melancholic performance. A Resilient Artist! This is the stuff of learning. Our students learn in new and different ways, make mistakes, re-learn and persevere – it is the essence of learning and indicative of our Student Learner Outcome Self Managers – students who are resilient, balanced, mindful, and act ethically.

New Faculty

Janine Hedges and Bryan Holmstrom have been delayed to site pending Ministry of Education and Ministry of Manpower approvals. We are working with GOVREL and the Ministries to expedite their arrival. In the interim Janine will support Elementary online and Bryan will support Middle School Math online. Elementary will also be supported with 'Face to Face' Learning by Anita Fraser. Mark Jenkins and Russell Downs will support Middle School Science 'Face to Face' until Bryan is mobilized.

A New Student

Cieran Terblanche will be joining our small family school in September. Cieran is from Cape Town South Africa and will be a great member of our school. Cieran prior attended the British School of Ulaanbataar in Mongolia. Welcome Cieran, Tina and Robert. Prior to Cieran's arrival, Janine Hedges will support Cieran online during the transition to Kuala Kencana.

First Weeks of School

August 1 – 5 will see a gradual return of students to MZS. The week will be focused on reflective activities, science and Maker Ed challenges beside initial familiarization with academic subjects, Second Step – Our Social Skills Program and our Student Learner Outcomes. Full academic programs will commence in earnest August 8th.

The week of August 8 will see the commencement of World Languages. Extra-curricular Activities will commence August 15th.

Schedules and Transportation

School schedules will be discussed and disseminated to students at school. In general, school commences at 08.00am and concludes at 15.30 Monday to Thursday. School concludes at 14.45 on Fridays. For the first week, school will conclude at 14.45.

MZS will provide bus transportation for all students using the HI-Ace van. Students should be ready by 07.45 for morning pick-up.

COVID Management and Protocols

A COVID Management Infographic will be disseminated after final review from Public Health.

The following principles apply:

- Mandatory Mask wearing at school, especially indoor settings.
- Physical Distancing
- Reduced Densities in indoor settings where relevant and practical
- Hand Sanitization on a regular frequency
- Enhanced ventilation through opening of doors and windows
- Daily Health Screening on arrival at school

In the event of a student or teacher who presents with COVID-like cold and flu symptoms it is imperative that they not attend school and present at ISOS for testing.

- **Students Negative for COVID:** Remain at home until asymptomatic. Asynchronous learning and online check-ins will be provided. This is advised to minimize flu and cold transmission.
- **Faculty Negative for COVID:** Remain at home until advised by ISOS based on Doctor's case management advice.
- **Students Positive for COVID:** Isolate for 10 days. Family Members isolate also even if asymptomatic.
- **Faculty Positive for COVID:** Isolate for 10 days with ISOS review at 5 Days. Negative results and asymptomatic may initiate an earlier return to school.

MZS will continue operations throughout. Isolation protocols are implemented to sustain school operations and minimize COVID or Flu-cold transmission which may impact operational capacities.

Key Dates

August 1 - MZS commences Academic Year

August 8 - World Languages Commence: Spanish, German, Japanese, French

August 13 - Back to School Saturday 10.00-12.00

August 15 - Extra-curricular Activities [ECA's commence]

August 17 - Independence Day Celebrations and Luncheon [Students and Families]

We look forward to engaging with students and families in coming days.

Warmly
Mark

Mark Jenkins

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