



AP Capstone[™]
Discovery, Research, Distinction

Millard West High School · 5710 So. 176th Ave. · Omaha
(402) 715-6000 · Fax (402) 715-6060

July 14, 2023

To: Primary Parent/Guardians of Students Registered to attend Millard West High School for 2022-23

From: Greg Tiemann, Ed. D., Millard West Principal

Dear Millard West Parent/Guardian,

On behalf of Millard West High School, I want to welcome you to the 2023-24 school year! In our 29 years, we pride ourselves as an inclusive, innovative learning community with the goal of developing the leaders of tomorrow. Our students excel in academics and activities and our reputation as an outstanding school was recently recognized by the US News and World Report as one of the best in the nation and ranked in the top 5 in the state. We are fortunate to recruit and hire outstanding teaching professionals, including over 80% who have a master's degree or higher. Millard West also has one of the highest graduation rates and college-going rates in the state.

Millard West serves a very proud community and the support from families is what helps make it so strong. Parents like you have made our high school a source of pride for our community and many families move into the Millard West area because of our strong reputation for quality

education. Many parents become active through our variety of parent groups and booster clubs. Thank you for your commitment as we see our school as a public investment for everyone!

As our school is entering its 28th year, we look for new opportunities to thrive. As you may already know, two schedule teams have been working for three years to investigate and identify alternatives to the current 4x4 block schedule with the following specific goal: Optimize instructional time to expand student learning opportunities, encourage student retention, and improve academic outcomes. After hearing input from parents, students, and staff, we wanted to address the issues of our current schedule including the instructional pace of nine-week terms, decreasing gaps between sequential courses like math and world languages, increasing opportunities for students to learn ahead of important assessments like the AP and ACT tests, and allowing students who have been “double blocked” in music and journalism more opportunities to explore the variety of courses we offer.

Starting in the 2023-24 school year, we will continue our 90-minute extended block schedule but modify it to run courses either half or full year. For four days of the week, the school day will be based on an alternating “Odd/Even” block schedule with four 90-minute classes per day and students will take all eight classes one day with 46-minute standard sessions. This will allow students to take courses in 18 weeks, the course material will be spread out over a half year or full year, it will continue the great opportunity to block labs, tests, and in-depth discussion, allow the use of a flex period, and advisement, and weekly instructional minutes will be balanced with three class contacts per week.

Millard West offers a wide array of challenging courses. We offer multiple Advanced Placement courses for dual enrollment/college credit. As an *AP Capstone* program school, our students have the opportunity to take a higher level of challenge and earn an AP Capstone diploma that colleges and universities value and recognize. Millard West also offers courses for 11th and 12th-grade students who learn best from a blend of in-person and remote styles of instruction. Students with special needs receive individualized instruction through a variety of programs including English Language (EL) and Special Education.

Recognizing that student activities play an integral role in the total educational program, the school offers a variety of extracurricular and co-curricular activities and clubs. Programs include

over 60 clubs/activities in which students can participate. Our school proudly holds several state titles and students receive many opportunities to compete and participate at the next level after high school.

Enclosed in this email are important dates and information I need to share with you before the first day of school on **August 10 for 9th-grade students and August 11 for all students.**

Please read the following information and important attachments regarding payments, school pictures, and class shirts.

MPS Online Registration (OLR) for existing families is open. You will need to navigate to the MPS [Enrollment/Registration](#) and follow the directions on the webpage. If you have any login issues call the Parent Assistance Line (PAL) at 402-715-8000.

Athletic & Activity Participation - The Online registration must be complete with “athletic participation” marked YES. This covers all insurance, liability, and permission form requirements. Athletic Physicals must be performed on or after May 1, 2023, and the form turned in to the activities office before a student can practice/participate (including cheer, dance, & lacrosse). Please fill out the [Athletic Pre-participation Clearance Form](#), print it off, and make sure it is signed by the attending physician. The Activities Office will begin accepting physicals on June 1, 2023. The Online Registration and the \$65 Sports-Activity Fee must be paid before we will accept the physical.

August 7- Back to School (8:00 am - 12:00 pm; 1:00 - 3:00 pm).

The main purposes of the Back to School Process:

1. Online Payment Verification - We ask families to pay for all school expenses online. Once a family enrolls in Synergy, families can view those fees within ParentVUE. By clicking on “Pay Fees” in Synergy’s ParentVue, a family will be able to make payments online via VISA, MasterCard, and Discover cards. With this secure parent account, families can also get a full history of payments searchable by date and child. Please use this link to make online payments for the following:

- 1:1 computer loss agreement (renewed annually) - \$20
- Parking - \$40

- Activity Pass (student admission pass to home sporting events) - \$40
- 12th-grade transcript - \$5
- Sports-Activity Fee - \$65 (for students participating in athletics, including Unified Sports, Dance, Cheer, Show Choir, Lacrosse, Debate, and Forensics) This fee *includes* the Activity Pass listed above. Students do not have to pay for both.

2. 9th Grade Students will turn in their middle school laptops and equipment and receive their new high school laptops and equipment.

3. Turn in the Athletic [Pre-participation Clearance Form](#) (activities include cheer, dance, & lacrosse) with the physician's signature. Please make sure to print it off and make sure it is signed by the attending physician.

4. Take school pictures with Martin Photography: **You now have the convenience to place an online order for School Pictures! The pre-order link is available for 2 days after your student's picture date. Please use the link below if you would like to place an order.**
www.martinphotography.hhimagehost.com

5. Promote parent involvement with the Athletic Booster Club: [Booster Club membership form](#)

6. Purchase the Prowler Yearbook and class shirts from the school store:

[2024 Prowler Yearbook Online Ordering](#)

The 2024 Prowler Yearbook will be sold for \$75 through Thursday, Aug. 31. Starting Sept. 1, the price will increase to \$80.

[Class of 2024 Senior Picture Form](#)

[Class of 2024 Senior Tribute Form](#)

[Millard West Class Shirts Order Form](#)

[Game Day Bundles](#) from the Scratchin' Post

Class Schedules

Class schedules will only be available through Synergy ParentVUE and StudentVUE, starting Monday, July 24th. Class schedules will not be printed off or picked up at the school.

August 8 - Open House (6:00 - 7:00 pm)

Open House will be offered in person for all students. Parents will need to download their student's schedules before coming to the school and are welcome to visit any teachers during that time.

Please click this link for the [2023-24 School Calendar](#)

We look forward to developing the leaders of tomorrow starting August 10!

Have a great school year, and Go Wildcats!



Greg Tiemann, Ed. D.

Principal, Millard West High School

402-715-6000 getiemann@mpsomaha.org | 5710 South 176th Avenue, Omaha, NE