

## High School Happenings December 10, 2019

### MHS Administration

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### News and Information

- **Winter Break:** Methacton High School is closed for winter break during the weeks of December 23 to December 27 and December 30 to January 1. All MHS offices will be closed during winter break and will reopen with the resumption of school on Thursday, January 2. Student athletes participating in winter sports should refer to specific winter break schedules provided by team coaches. High School Happenings will next be sent on Tuesday, January 7. The administration, faculty and staff of Methacton High School wish all of you the peace and joy of this holiday season and the rest and rejuvenation provided by the winter break. Best wishes for the very best of health and happiness in 2020!
- **Winter Concert:** The annual winter concert featuring our music performing groups will be held on Thursday, December 19, at 7:30 PM in the auditorium at Arcola Intermediate School. Please come out and support our students and enjoy this annual concert.
- **Program Planning Guide: Program Planning Guide (PPG):** The Program Planning Guide, or PPG, is the document that explains course selection in detail and outlines all the specific information regarding credit requirements for graduation, specific information relative to grade-level, course descriptions and prerequisite requirements. The PPG for the 2020-2021 school year is now posted on the MHS web page. Although actual course selection will not take place until February, parents and students are encouraged to read through the PPG together in advance and have conversations about course selection prior to the selection process in February. While discussing possible courses to select, please also make note of the **Waiver Policy**, mentioned in a previous Happenings email. Information regarding the Waiver Policy can also be found on the MHS website. Please visit the following link to view the PPG and Waiver Policy:  
<https://www.methacton.org/Domain/112>
- **End of Marking Period Testing Cycle:** The end of the second marking period of the school year is January 24 (weather dependent). In order to prevent too many major tests being given on one day, the following schedule will be used when within **one cycle (6 school days) prior to the end of a marking period or the start of exams week.** The major test schedule will be as follows:
  - ACE- Science, English, Electives (excludes 3-day/cycle)
  - BDF- Math, Social Studies, World Language

The definition of Major Test and Minor Assessment are listed below. The following factors will be used for determining whether a testing instrument is a "test" or "quiz."

Major Tests - Given on a unit/chapter and include comprehensive material. All major tests will be announced at least two (2) days in advance to allow for maximum preparation by students.

Minor Assessments - Allow teachers to adjust instruction or re-teach concepts. These include announced or unannounced quizzes and do not need to adhere to the major test schedule.

**Exceptions to this policy may take place as determined and communicated in advance by building administration when such events as holidays, significant school-wide activities e.g. Halloween, assemblies, lab day schedules, or other special requests by teachers occur.**

- **Mid-Term Exams:** Comprehensive exams in the form of a mid-term exam and a final exam for yearlong courses and a final exam for semester-long courses are a component of most courses at MHS. The end of the second marking period (end of first semester) is approaching in January and the first of our twice-annual exam periods will take place. MHS will follow a special schedule during this period of end-of-semester exams. Please visit the following link for additional midterm information: <https://www.methacton.org/Domain/942> It is very important for all of our MHS families to be aware of this schedule and the manner in which the school day changes during the days of exams. It is also important for our MHS families to be aware of the academic significance of these exams. For most yearlong courses, the mid-term exam grade is averaged together with the final exam grade to reach a score that comprises twenty (20) percent of a student's total course grade. For most semester-long courses, the final exam grade counts as twenty (20) percent of a student's overall grade. Thank you in advance for your attention to the modified schedule as you plan for January and for your support of these important exams.

- **Informational Reminders**

- **Methacton School Store:** Student Council has started a school store. Many items can be customized with colors and logos! Free shipping is available to the high school for your student to pick up, or a \$6 delivery fee for home shipping. Visit the website for additional details. <https://www.yourstartinglineup.com/mhsstore/>
- **Home & School Assoc.** You can stay connected and get information about other school/club events from the Home & School Association via Konstella (register at: <https://www.konstella.com/cd/jfCdAY> ) or via the H&S webpage: <https://www.methacton.org/Page/1016> . Also look for information on how to provide needed support through their No Frills Fundraiser. Any problems or questions, please email the Home & School Board at: [MHS\\_HS@methacton.org](mailto:MHS_HS@methacton.org)

- **Handbook Corner:**

- **Remaining After School:** Students may not remain after school except for participation in school-related activities such as academics, sports or detention. Students must be under the direct supervision of a teacher or coach. At the conclusion of the period of direct supervision, students are to report directly to the main lobby to await a ride. There is no longer a late bus for transportation. Failure to comply with these procedures will result in the student being placed on disciplinary probation and the revocation of all afterschool privileges.
- **Athletics:**
  - Congratulations to the following fall sports season athletes who have been named to first and second team designation in their respective sports. Please see the complete list attached.
  - Visit the Athletics website at <https://methactonwarriors.org/> for schedules and information and please come out to support our student athletes during the winter sports season.