

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Thank You to the MERSD Community

On behalf of the faculty and staff of MERSD, I want to extend my sincere appreciation to the entire MERSD community for your continued commitment to education and your ongoing support of our students and schools. The approval of the FY26 Budget is a meaningful step forward and enables MERSD to continue delivering a high-quality educational program in which students thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

I am deeply grateful to everyone in the MERSD community who helped make the passage of the FY26 Budget possible. Whether you attended meetings, sent emails, shared information, hosted forums, or stood outside with signs in the rain, your efforts truly made a difference. Additionally, I'd like to recognize and thank the Essex 2025 and Support MERSD teams for their time, effort, coordination, and advocacy throughout this effort.

Thank you again for your engagement and support—MERSD's success is truly a community effort.

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Middle High School Schedule Alignment Agreement

- 1 Year Pilot
- World Language Staff will be shared – Grade 6 World Language Reinstated

Aligned 7-Day Rotating Schedule

- Maintains current instructional time and key elements that support student success (teaming/UBlock)
- Shared 7-day rotating schedule across both middle and high schools
- Coordinated class time structures and a common lunch block
- Middle School:
 - Core classes meet 6 out of 7 days
 - One class drops each day in a consistent rotation
- High School:
 - Two-period drop schedule maintained
 - Non-consecutive drops ensure each class meets 5 times per cycle
 - Schedule avoids long gaps between meetings

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FY26 Hiring – Underway

As of May 20th – There are 14 open position for Fall 2025

Positions Being Vacated – End of Year

- Memorial Elementary Classroom Teacher – 1.0
- MS Principal – 1.0
- MS School Adjustment Counselor – 1.0
- MS ACE Teacher – 1.0
- HS Special Education Inclusion Teacher – 1.0
- HS Math Teacher – 1.0
- HS Administrative Assistant – 1.0
- HS Biology Teacher (dual certified in Chemistry) – 1.0
- Middle/High School SPED Team Chair – 1.0
- Districtwide
 - Occupational Therapist (One-Year Appointment) – 0.8
 - Elementary Literacy Specialist (Essex & Memorial) – 0.6
 - Speech & Language Pathologist / Clinical Fellow (LTS) – 1.0
 - Financial Analyst / Payroll – School Accountant – 1.0
 - English Learner (EL) Teacher – 1.0

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Interim Middle School Principal

- Maintaining a dedicated middle school principal was contingent on the successful passage of the FY26 Budget.
- Given that the budget was finalized late in the hiring season interim principal will be appointed for 2025–2026.
- This allows for a full, high-quality search during the prime hiring window in January–February 2026.
- The interim search is already underway, with a goal to appoint someone by early July.
- An update is going out to MS Families this week.

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End of Year Celebrations & Activities

May 23 – Memorial Day Ceremonies

- Memorial Elementary • 8:45 AM
- Essex Elementary • 9:30 AM
- Middle/High School • 1:30 PM

May 28 – Academic & Athletic Awards Night

- MERHS Academic & Athletic Awards/Scholarship Night
- 6:00 PM • MERHS Auditorium

May 29 – Spring Events

- Junior/Senior Prom
- Elementary Spring Concert • 6:00 PM • MERHS Auditorium

June 5 – Baccalaureate 6:00 PM • MERHS Auditorium

June 6 – High School Graduation 4:00 PM • Hyland Field

June 11 – EES Moving On Ceremony 5:00 • Essex Elementary

June 16 – MMES Crossing the Bridge 6:00 • Memorial School

June 17 – MS Moving On Ceremony 6:00 PM • Hyland Field