



# MPH

## HEALTHY GROWTH FOR ALL

### The Manlius Pebble Hill School Social Compact and Plan for the 2020-2021 School Year

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As data and official guidance on COVID-19 continue to evolve, we are monitoring the latest information and adjusting plans for MPH accordingly. Please understand that these plans may change as circumstances warrant.

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# HEALTHY FOUNDATIONS

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## FOUNDED ON THE MPH MISSION AND CORE VALUES

The 2020-2021 school year will be like no other in MPH history, and we will meet the challenge with calm and resilience. Our community is guided by our mission statement: to inspire our students to think critically, act responsibly, and discover a passion for lifelong learning. Our community is deeply rooted in core values that enable everyone to grow and flourish in an environment of mutual care and commitment, no matter the challenges. Read the MPH Mission Statement and Core Values [here](#).

Our MPH social compact ensures we are mindful of one another and that we act with our collective interest in mind.



## FOUNDED ON COMMUNITY CARE

MPH is a close-knit community to which each of us belongs. We take care of each other. Our social compact ensures optimal teaching and learning while safeguarding the health and well-being of the entire MPH community: students, families, employees, alumni, grandparents, visitors, and neighbors. Read our Health Commitments statement [here](#).



## FOUNDED ON SCIENCE AND CURRENT OFFICIAL GUIDANCE

MPH's response to the ongoing pandemic continues to be informed and guided by the work of the MPH Health Protocols Advisory Group. This group meets regularly to review and act upon current research, reliable data, and guidance that ensures best practices for health, safety, and well-being for all. Because of the changing nature of COVID-19, the details outlined in the *MPH Social Compact and Plan for the 2020-2021 School Year* are necessarily subject to change. Read the Health Protocols Advisory Group Statement [here](#). Click [here](#) for a list of the main official resources and guidance that inform our planning.



## FOUNDED ON OUR COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

The plans for our 2020-2021 school year are designed to be nimble and adaptive to changing circumstances. Teaching and learning will continue with minimal disruption, no matter the physical setting. Education of the whole child will continue as safely and seamlessly as possible, with enhanced emphasis on personal connection, core values, and the social and emotional learning that is essential to everyone's well-being.

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# PLANNING PRIORITIES

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## PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

MPH is committed to providing the necessary support for teachers to be lifelong learners through professional development; during this historic moment, this commitment is even more critical. To enable teachers to develop an engaging and flexible learning experience regardless of physical location, MPH is providing faculty with robust and substantial personal and professional development opportunities during the summer of 2020 and will continue to do so throughout the 2020-2021 school year. Ongoing personal and professional development for our educators will enable them to adapt effectively to changing circumstances and ensure that the MPH learning experience will remain consistently excellent.

Guided by the four Healthy Foundations, MPH has identified eight Planning Priorities.



## TECHNOLOGY TOOLS

MPH is investing in technology and training to enable teachers to be most effective with time and resources, and to ensure that teaching and learning continue as seamlessly as possible no matter the physical setting. We are currently working on enhancements to our hardware and software infrastructure that will facilitate education both on campus and at home. With the installation of cameras and microphones in every learning space, students who are unable to be on campus will have the ability to view simulcasts of their classes, and our educators will be equipped with resources including high-end laptops, headphones, and microphones. Above all, MPH is providing teachers with professional development opportunities targeting student engagement in virtual environments.



## PHYSICAL DISTANCE AND SOCIAL CONNECTION

MPH will balance the need for physical distancing with a commitment to plenty of social connection in order to reduce stress and increase everyone's well-being. Our goal is to minimize in-person contact to prevent virus transmission. In order to decrease risk and promote safety, we will use face coverings, enhanced hygiene practices, physical distancing, outdoor learning, staggered class transition times, and helpful signage to ease campus flow. Despite the required physical-distancing measures, MPH is committed to nurturing the special relationships that make our school unique, providing the necessary time and opportunities for students and faculty to connect and have fun.



## HEALTHY INVESTMENTS

While commitment and attention to the mental and social-emotional health and well-being of our students continues to be a priority, we are also taking immediate steps to meet higher and more-stringent physical health standards. MPH is currently implementing a campus master plan that has prioritized enhanced capacity to improve air quality and circulation in all physical spaces; has examined existing classroom spaces to ensure appropriate physical distancing; has identified additional instructional spaces both inside and outside of school buildings; has identified and committed to upgrading the network infrastructure and technology in every classroom; and has committed to installing hygiene stations throughout campus. Our commitment in these areas is abiding.



## STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP

MPH emphasizes the importance of empowering student voices. We are actively partnering with student leaders to help us plan for and navigate the 2020-2021 school year. As ambassadors for healthy change, student leaders will not only help ensure that all students' needs are recognized, but also help everyone learn and practice the protocols necessary to keep our community healthy and thriving. MPH will value students' fresh perspectives, creativity, collaboration, and leadership as we work and learn together, all the while demonstrating and celebrating the indomitable spirit of the MPH community.



## CONNECTION THROUGH COMMUNICATION

MPH is currently modifying the "MY MPH" page on the School's website to make it a portal for clear and direct communication. This clearinghouse will be updated on a regular schedule and organized for ease of use. Students and parents will assume the responsibility of visiting the portal daily to access information relevant to their participation in school. As families engage in this daily discipline, they will actively help us streamline school communication, decrease the volume of email, and help ensure that our whole community is united, well-informed, and working together for the good of all.

**In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and to prepare for the 2020-2021 school year, MPH will invest more than \$750,000 to provide support in the following areas:**

- **Facilities improvements.**
- **Technology: network, equipment, and training.**
- **Enhanced professional development.**
- **Additional support for MPH families.**
- **Additional necessary staffing.**



## CO-CURRICULAR CONSIDERATIONS

The health and well-being of the entire MPH community is our highest priority. Co-curricular activities such as clubs, athletic events, and performances enrich and nourish the relationships that form the building blocks of community and engender a sense of belonging. While we continue to monitor official guidance about co-curricular activities, we will also devise creative solutions to integrate and re-imagine these vital aspects of our overall curriculum to ensure that our educational programs remain balanced, engaging, and fun for the entire community.



## MPH COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Input and feedback from the entire MPH community will continue to inform our planning. We appreciate the insight and knowledge gathered from multiple surveys completed by our students, parents, and employees. Our careful analysis of the resulting data has enabled us to identify and prioritize opportunities for improvement. Toward the MPH goal of teaching, learning, and connecting in the healthiest ways possible, all MPH stakeholders will be invited to participate in our ongoing conversation.

# CONTINUOUS AND FLEXIBLE TEACHING AND LEARNING

The health and well-being of every member of the MPH community is our highest priority. Anticipating the evolving nature of COVID-19, we will provide continuity of structure, teaching, and learning, regardless of location. Our teachers and students will stay connected and engaged, whether they are on campus or at home. Locations may change, but MPH's commitment to excellence in education will not.




## SUMMARY OF WHAT TO EXPECT: EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

- The MPH educational program will be delivered with integrity regardless of location.
- Our curriculum and schedule will be guided by the MPH mission and core values, with enhanced emphasis on personal connection, and the social and emotional learning that is essential to everyone's well-being.
- On-campus learning will be the default mode of our educational program. At-home learning will be used when necessary.
- Leveraging the lessons learned last spring, teachers will engage in ongoing professional development to match the tools of technology to the streamlined and flexible teaching and learning that is planned for 2020-2021.

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- When on campus, MPH teachers will use technology to simulcast classes to include any students who may need to join from home.
  - Lower School, Middle School, and Upper School will operate on an amended schedule to ensure that health and safety protocols are followed while balancing everyone's well-being.
  - Large-group gatherings will take place remotely, using technology to connect our community while maintaining safe physical distance.

## **SUMMARY OF WHAT TO EXPECT: HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS**

- Health and safety will be the priority.
- According to our social compact to help safeguard everyone's health and safety, all members of the MPH community will be required to complete a daily health check-in before arriving on campus.
- If a student or employee becomes symptomatic while on campus, we will follow protocols and guidelines informed by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and New York State.
- Enhanced cleaning and disinfecting will be conducted campus-wide every day.
- Hand sanitizer will be readily available; frequent hand washing will be part of our daily routine.
- Physical distancing will be maintained.
- Everyone on campus will wear face coverings.
- The Health Office will have separate spaces for those who are well but in need of care, for those who are sick, and for those who may need to be isolated as recommended by the CDC.
- The Health Office will be adequately stocked with appropriate protective equipment and supplies.
- Healthy nutrition will be provided by our Dining Services team who will prepare and serve all food packaged for individual consumption.



**Locations may change, but MPH's commitment to excellence in education will not.**

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# ADAPTIVE PLANNING FOR CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES

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This *MPH Social Compact and Plan for the 2020-2021 School Year* is dynamic and evolving. Every day we monitor the changing circumstances and stay apprised of new recommendations and mandates. Our plan is designed to be nimble enough to adapt to change with relative ease. We are also aware that “we don’t know what we don’t know” and that circumstances may change in ways that no one has yet anticipated. We stand ready to make appropriate and necessary changes as circumstances warrant.

MPH is developing its plans in accordance with guidelines provided by the CDC, the New York State Department of Health (DOH), the New York State Education Department (NYSED), and New York State’s [Reopening New York: Checklist for Pre-K to Grade 12 Reopening Plans](#). All schools, including MPH, will submit their plans by July 31, 2020. MPH’s plan will cover details about facilities for in-person instruction, the monitoring of our community’s health conditions, the containment of potential virus transmission, and the closure of facilities if necessitated by widespread transmission.

These plans reflect engagement with MPH stakeholders and community members through surveys of students, families, and employees; regular meetings of the Health Protocols Advisory Group, the Teaching and Learning Advisory Group, the Steering Committee, the Administrative Team, the Student Council, the Parents’ Association (PA) leadership team, and the Board of Trustees; as well as ongoing, open-to-all, community conversations about our process and the plans themselves.

The ultimate success of these plans is contingent upon every individual — from the youngest to the oldest member of our community — committing to this social compact to safeguard the health and well-being of all. We appreciate the partnership of everyone in the MPH community as together we promote health and well-being, excellent education, transformative growth, and remarkable resilience.



▲ The Class of 2020 leading the way in MPH’s transformation.

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## PLANNING DETAILS

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General information included in our planning is summarized below. For greater detail, please follow the links provided in each section.



The ultimate success of these plans is contingent upon every individual's commitment to this social compact.

### TEACHING AND LEARNING REGARDLESS OF PHYSICAL LOCATION

- MPH will provide an excellent educational experience, regardless of physical location.
- While the goal is for all students and teachers to be on campus, this may not always be feasible.
- When teaching and/or learning on campus is not possible, MPH will use technology to ensure instruction and learning continues. On-campus classes will be simulcast to provide access for students learning from home.
- In accordance with guidance from the local health department, MPH will develop a process for switching from on-campus to at-home teaching and learning when required.

### SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING PROMOTES HEALTHY GROWTH FOR ALL

- Along with physical health and well-being, MPH will prioritize the overall well-being of students, teachers, employees, and families to create the mental, social, and emotional space for academic learning to occur.
- No matter where teaching and learning takes place, MPH — in accordance with NYSED guidelines — will make community well-being a top priority to ensure optimal physical and mental health for all.
- Understanding the vital importance of every community member's sense of belonging, MPH will emphasize education around issues of diversity and equity, and practice inclusion of all members of the community.
- MPH will intentionally create space in the daily schedule for community members to reduce stress through a variety of ways, including practicing self-care and care for others, spending time outdoors, and inventing new ways to stay socially connected with friends and colleagues while at a safe physical distance.



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## TEACHING AND LEARNING WHEN ON CAMPUS

### Face Coverings additional details will be available soon

Everyone (with the exception of Pre-K students who will wear hat shields) will wear face coverings that meet state guidelines on campus and inside buildings unless otherwise instructed (e.g., while eating or during designated face-covering breaks). Adults in close proximity to students (less than six feet) will wear an additional face shield.

- MPH will build time into the school day for face-covering breaks.
- MPH will provide face coverings to all employees, as well as face shields to all employees who need them.
- Parents will be required to provide face coverings for their child(ren). MPH will provide guidelines to parents. MPH will provide extra face coverings for students at school, should the need arise.

### Physical Distancing on Campus and in Teaching Spaces additional details will be available soon

The MPH community will maintain a minimum of six feet of distance between individuals through a variety of approaches: space configuration, staggered scheduling, prominent signage, reducing bi-directional traffic, and community behavior.

- Student storage (lockers and cubbies) — planning in progress.
- Drop-off and pick-up times: At this time, we anticipate that these times will remain the same as they were last year. Additional egress routes are under consideration — planning in progress.
- “Cohorts,” self-contained, pre-assigned groups of students, will be used whenever possible, particularly for younger students. MPH will enact measures to prevent intermingling across cohorts to the greatest extent possible.
- Lower School students will stay together either in their classrooms or outside. Encore teachers will visit them in person or virtually. Transitions will be staggered to avoid Middle School and Upper School students in hallways.
- Bathrooms will be designated for specific use by Lower School, Middle School, and Upper School students in accordance with state guidelines.

### Physical Education and Recess additional details will be available soon

- When weather permits, physical education (PE) classes and recess will be held outside. Face coverings will not be required outside, and teachers will reinforce and monitor physical distancing.
- Lower School students will be provided with activity ideas that promote physical distancing (e.g., relay races and the like). When weather does not permit Lower School students to be outside, the inside PE class will focus on classroom topics such as health and nutrition, sports history, Olympic achievements, and the like. For recess, inside play options will be offered and monitored to ensure that students maintain physical distance.
- Middle and Upper School — planning in progress.

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## **Performing Arts** additional details will be available soon

- Large gatherings will be virtual only, so “performances” will be re-imagined within a virtual platform.
- Lower School: Students will participate in a music/theater/dance history class. As possible, Lower School students will have opportunities to participate in dance class outside and at a distance. Lower School students will participate in one-on-one or small-group string and band instrument instruction, either in-person or virtually, depending on circumstances.
- Middle School and Upper School — planning in progress.

## **Nutrition** additional details will be available soon

- All food will be prepared and served by our Dining Services team for individual consumption.
- Students and employees will eat either outdoors or in classrooms, with appropriate physical distancing in effect.
- The sharing of food will be prohibited.
- Students will not be allowed to bring food from home.

## **Hygiene, Cleaning, and Ventilation** additional details will be available soon

- MPH has assessed the square footage of each learning space and determined safe occupancy for each room.
- MPH will adhere to official requirements for cleaning and disinfection.
- To the extent possible, students will be assigned their own materials for their singular use. Any shared materials will be cleaned and sanitized.
- MPH will provide hand-hygiene stations around school, as well as opportunities for frequent hand washing with soap, running warm water, and disposable paper towels. Hand sanitizer will be available in all teaching spaces and throughout common areas.
- Regular cleaning and disinfecting will be the primary responsibility of the custodial staff.
- Supplies will be provided to faculty and staff for frequent cleaning of surfaces, materials, and tools used during the day.
- As part of our social compact, *all* members of the community will help keep our surroundings clean; time will be built into the schedule for frequent cleaning of surfaces, supplies, and hands.
- MPH will open windows and doors to the greatest extent possible.
- MPH is partnering with engineers to determine air-flow velocities, wavelengths, and configuration; and to assess our heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning (HVAC) systems and filtration requirements.

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## Health Processes additional details will be available soon

- Before arriving on campus each day, every member of the MPH community (students, faculty, staff, visitors) will be required to complete and submit a daily health screening via MY MPH on the school website.
- The daily health screening will involve a questionnaire including a temperature check and inquiries about symptoms, a person's potential exposure to COVID-19 via travel, and/or close or proximate contact with others who have been potentially exposed.
- MPH will follow all official guidelines on cleaning and disinfecting areas used by anyone suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19.

## MPH Health Office Protocols additional details will be available soon

- Students and employees who develop a fever or symptoms related to COVID-19 while on campus will be sent home.
- Symptomatic students will be immediately separated from other students and adults, and supervised by a physically distanced staff member in a dedicated area prior to going home.
- State and local health departments will be immediately notified.
- The school nurse is responsible for receiving and reviewing all screening activities.

## Transportation planning in progress

In order to address the transportation question for students who rely on district-area busing, we need to gather more information, including the plans and details coming out of each district. We plan to send a survey to all MPH families, customized with respect to the division of each child, and will include questions about transportation options, the responses to which will help inform our planning.

We are exploring potential workaround solutions to this health and logistical conundrum and are open to innovative ideas from the community.

For more information, please visit [MY MPH](#).

# Manlius Pebble Hill School

