



HOLICONG WEEKLY UPDATE

Monday, September 2023

Holicong Community,

The time is here and tomorrow marks the official first day of school for the 2023-2024 school year! This is an exciting time for all of us and we especially welcome our new students and staff members that will be joining us for the first time! By now we hope you have had the opportunity to read our welcome letters and review the Opening of School website and wanted to send out one final welcome with reminders and updates in one spot for tomorrow!

7th Grade Students: You will report directly to the auditorium when you arrive (both bus and car riders). Staff and student leaders will direct you to sit with the other students on your team. You will remain in the auditorium for our opening assembly (the first time you are together as a class!) and we will go over introductions of staff, review the schedule and cover all other important information for the day. And don't worry – you will also have time to go to your lockers to practice, review your schedules, review and visit your bus pickup schedules, and get settled in at Holicong. We will even dismiss you a few minutes early to make sure you have plenty of time to get to your locker and bus – nobody will miss the bus on the first day!

8th Grade Students: You will report to the main gym (both bus and car riders). At 7:22 you will report to your first period class and get your new schedule. We will have our opening assembly after 1st period!

9th Grade Students: You will report to the cafeteria (both bus and car riders). At 7:25 you will report to your first period class and get your new schedule. We will have our opening assembly after 2nd period!

As noted in previous communications we are excited to get back to what we do best at Holicong. For our returning students, we have had some changes in staff, room assignments and updated a few policies and procedures and please know we are excited about these as they will only improve on what we are doing at Holicong in and out of the classroom.

We realize there are many emotions on the first day of a new school year. Please just remember that no matter what you are feeling – you have the support of our entire staff and students and all of us in the Holicong community who want every single student to feel safe and valued **AT ALL TIMES and this starts tomorrow!** So if you see a student who may be lost or having a tough day, please just make a point to smile and say hello and ask to help.

Because that is what we do at **HOLICONG!**

Kevin Shillingford, Principal

Mike Canelli, Assistant Principal

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 4

Tuesday A DAY	Wednesday B DAY	Thursday A DAY	Friday B DAY
First Day of School! <i>Schedule Below Students will receive new student schedules, Aramark lunch codes (required for lunch purchase), student handbooks, code of conduct (to be signed by parent).</i>	<i>Students will receive code of conduct & assessment policy to be signed by parent & caregiver.</i> <i>Students will complete handbook activity so they know how to use the handbook!</i>	<i>Students will learn about Intervention & Enrichment and watch Edificency video!</i>	<i>Students will complete portrait of a graduate activity!</i>

Holicong Mission

Holicong Middle School will foster a climate of academic, social, and emotional learning with an emphasis on respectful, responsible, considerate, and healthy behaviors.

ANNOUNCEMENT & UPDATES

Procedures & Policies – We will review these at our opening assemblies and throughout the year and posted on our website. These are policies put in place for specific purposes to ensure the overall focus on our educational programs and the safety & security of our students & staff. We ask our parents/guardians to please review these with students and support us to ensure we are communicating as a community and supporting one another!

Traffic Patterns for Arrival & Dismissal: For those of you familiar with Holicong road, the traffic is not ideal for two schools and the cut-through traffic we have in the morning and afternoon. There is much congestion due to the busses, car riders, student drivers from East, staff traffic, and the cut through traffic to get to 263. With that said, please allow yourself additional time in the morning and please do not drop students off on Holicong Road to walk. This does happen and it is a safety hazard so please make sure to follow the procedures outline in our communications and posted below:

- [Parent Resources / Student Arrival/Dismissal & Parent Pick-up/Drop-off \(cbsd.org\)](https://cbsd.org/parent-resources/student-arrival-dismissal-parent-pickup-drop-off)
- [Parent Resources / Holicong Overhead Map - Pickup/Dropoff & Parking \(cbsd.org\)](https://cbsd.org/parent-resources/holicong-overhead-map-pickup-dropoff-parking): A few notes:

AM Bus Riders: In order to reduce congestion and gridlock in the AM, the teams from CB East, Holicong and CBSD transportation met and we are going to mirror the PM bus process. Students will be dropped off in the AM at the school where their bus is “berthed” in the afternoon. We adjusted this process in the PM and it has drastically reduced the traffic, dismissal process by 15 minutes and made for a much more safe and efficient traffic pattern. We also believe it will reduce the stress for students who are worried about being late to school. We will review this process for AM/PM with all students on the first day of school. All bus riders will enter through the bus platform lobby. Students will be greeted by Ms. Slotterback, Ms. D’Arcangelo, and Mrs. Wentz who will be supervising this area in the morning.

AM Dropoff Riders: Please follow the map above and make sure to use our pickup and dropoff lane. For parents dropping off – please note that we ask students to exit once you have reached the beginning of the dropoff and students can walk up the sidewalk (we will have signage) and do not wait until you get to the door. When parents wait to do this, it causes a backup and much easier if all students get out and parents exit for the next group to pull up. Students will be greeted by Mrs. Davidson and Mrs. Mandes who will be supervising this area in the morning.

AM Supervision: Mr. Sanford (along with Mr. Canelli & Dr. Shillingford) will be supervising the exterior of the building during AM arrival to both direct students and assist with parent/staff traffic to ensure.

PM Bus Riders: Busses are “berthed” at Holicong & CB East. We will review these assignments with students and they are posted at Holicong. Once students are dismissed from class they will go to their lockers and get all necessary belongings and report to the busses. Students are required to stay on the sidewalks at all times. We have crosswalks and will continue to use our barricades for the safety of our students.

PM Pickup Riders: Once students are dismissed from class they will go to their lockers and report to the bus pickup area. We ask our parents and caregivers review the map above to ensure that you are reporting to the correct location. Please do not pickup students on Holicong road or enter through the staff parking lot – this has occurred in the past and does create a safety hazard for our students and staff pedestrian traffic.

PM Supervision: The supervision in the PM includes multiple staff members at our locations along with Mr. Sanford, Mr. Canelli, Dr. Shillingford, and the team from CB East.

QUICK LINKS (Please note updates from 2022-2023 School Year)

- [Parent Resources / Attendance Procedures \(cbsd.org\)](https://cbsd.org)
- [Parent Resources / Cell Phone/Electronic Device Policy \(cbsd.org\)](https://cbsd.org)
- [Parent Resources / Dress Code Policy \(cbsd.org\)](https://cbsd.org)
- [Parent Resources / Holicong Student Handbook \(Bell Schedules, Building Maps, Policies and More\) \(cbsd.org\)](https://cbsd.org) – This page includes the Holicong bell schedule & AM/PM procedures, Assessment & Grading Practices (including reassessment guidelines), building map, student handbook, and the CBSD middle School Mission & Philosophy).
- [Student Activities / Activities Overview \(cbsd.org\)](https://cbsd.org)
- [Holicong Middle School \(holicongathletics.com\)](https://holicongathletics.com)

QUICK HIT REMINDERS

- **Lunch & Cafeteria** – Students can buy or bring. Mr. Canelli will review all cafeteria procedures with each grade at lunch. Parents can access the Aramark page in the welcome letter to deposit money into student accounts.
- **Bookbags** – Students can bring bookbags but they will remain in locker during the day. These create a safety issue in classrooms & the cafeteria.
- **Snacks** – Students can bring snacks and these are typically allowed during the I & E period; however, students need to follow teacher's classroom management plan and our Colonial Cores!

WELCOME NEW & RETURNING STAFF

Faculty	Support Staff	Welcome Back
Ryan Blough (7 th Grade Social Studies)	Jen Schied (Principal Secretary)	Michael Evans (Building Substitute)
Julie Mandes (PEN/NJHS Advisor)	Surrinder Paul (Paraprofessional)	Emma Slotterback (moving from PEN to English)
Victoria Araco (9 th Grade Science)	Bina Bengali (Paraprofessional)	
Nate Robinson (Health & PE/INC)	Deb Hofer (Duty Aide)	
Jessica Saretsky (Pre-Algebra & Algebra 1A)	Jan Tashman (Duty Aide)	
Cara Fahey (Spanish 2)	Chris Sanford (Safety & Security)	
Sarah Veneziale (9 th Grade English)	William Gongaware (Building Substitute)	
Brandi Daly (Art)		