

MENDOTA

TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

2300 WEST MAIN STREET • MENDOTA, ILLINOIS 61342 • PHONE (815) 539-7446 • FAX 538-2026 • DISTRICT #280

August 13, 2009

Dear Parents and Guardians:

The MHS Response to Intervention Team strives to answer the questions of how to help students when they struggle. Several teachers and administrators attended multiple training sessions offered through the ASPIRE network, Illinois Principals Association, LEASE Special Education Cooperative, and Regional Office of Education. As a result, a Response to Intervention Plan was submitted to the state of Illinois in January of 2009.

The MHS RtI plan provides teachers, parents, and students a means to meet the needs of all students with better tools, better training, and more support. The RtI Plan is based on a three tier model that delivers a scientifically based core program to students. Tier One interventions will provide a core program with fidelity, intensity, passion, and reasonable accommodations. All teachers can deliver Tier One interventions to students. Students who need additional support will move to Tier Two of services. Students who need the most assistance will progress to Tier Three. Progress monitoring will be used at all levels to assess student success.

An opportunity to provide intensive tiered interventions will be found with the incorporation of Period 8. Beginning in the 2009-2010 school year, the regular school day for MHS students will extend to 3:30 PM with an 8th Period. The purpose of period 8 is to provide supplemental educational services to students who are not academically, socially, or behaviorally performing to expectations.

Together, faculty, staff, administration, and board members identified with the purpose of providing Period 8 interventions, invested in it, and made a commitment to the district's successful implementation and change. Period 8 attendance is mandatory for assigned students. It will be scheduled Monday through Thursday. Students who are not required to attend period 8 are dismissed at the conclusion of period 7; or, they may choose to attend a voluntary study hall or seek additional, available support. Bus transportation will be provided at the conclusion of period 7 and period 8. Mandatory period 8 attendance takes precedence over any extra-curricular activity, this includes practices and competitions.

What does this mean to me? As a student, period 8 means a failing grade will require students receive interventions to improve academic performance. Students may also be asked to attend period 8 if they need Tier Two or Tier Three RtI Interventions and additional support. If a student would like the option of taking seven academic courses and saving time in his/her day for a period 8 study hall--that could also be an option.

What does this mean to me? As a parent, period 8 means your student will have access to additional teachers and support services daily from Monday through Thursday. It also means parents have an incentive built into the school day to encourage students pass all of their classes and earn the 2:51 dismissal after period 7. Finally, if your son/daughter wants or needs additional support and services, he/she may also take advantage of the additional opportunity in a safe, supervised environment.

What does this mean to our school? As a district, we have made the commitment as teachers, administration, and board to provide knowledge, skills, and resources as necessary tools to make the successful change. We have created a vision of using data to provide a clear, unwavering focus to curriculum priorities that are both rigorous and relevant. Instruction that is personalized and school improvement that is continuous by setting high expectations that are monitored. We are committed to focusing on the improvement of both our high school graduation rate of 82.7 percent and our standardized PSAT testing results.

Period 8 is scheduled to begin August 31st. Assigned students will receive notice through a mailing. Attendance is mandatory. Buses will run twice at 2:51 and again at 3:30. Students can earn the privilege to leave at 2:51 through several avenues. They can be passing all of their classes. Grades will be checked each Thursday, so students will be notified on Friday with a note at school and a letter will also be sent home to assign Period 8 attendance. **Once assigned due to failures, students will be required to stay in Period 8 for a consecutive three week period.** At the end of the three weeks, if students are passing all of their classes, they will earn the privilege to again leave school at 2:51. At any point in the school year, if students are failing a class, he/she will be re-assigned to Period 8 attendance for a three week period. Students will be assigned to a teacher who will take attendance and provide direct instruction or other interventions in that content area(s). If students do not attend Period 8, it will be treated as truancy with appropriate school discipline.

In addition, other students may need help with skills in academic areas. Their period 8 assignment will not be tied to grades. They will be notified separately. Additional testing will be provided to these students August 20, 24, and 25 during Period 8.

Any student who wants to stay for a study hall, to use the Media Center, or has extra-curricular practice at 3:30 will have the opportunity to attend a supervised study hall during Period 8. No one will be in the halls during period 8 without a pass from a teacher. Individual teachers may write passes to provide additional assistance during period 8 to students if the teacher is available.

Together, we can build a more effective program to provide students the services they need when they need them.

Please contact us at MHS at 539-7446 with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Denise Aughenbaugh, Principal