



MAHTOMEDI
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Proposed MMS and MHS First Day of School Schedule

4/13/2026

Experience Excellence



Board Action: Calendar Change Decision

Monday, August 31, 2026

- School Day for sixth grade and ninth grade.
- No School for (Grades 7,8,10, 11, and 12)

There would be an additional 40 high school students at MHS as Link Crew leaders and 60 middle school WEB leaders at MMS.



Why this Matters Now

Students entering grades 6 and 9 face the district's **two biggest school transitions.**

Current first-day conditions require them to **learn new buildings, schedules, procedures, peer culture, and adult supports while navigating a full building.**

This proposal creates a lower-stress first day designed to **improve belonging, reduce confusion, and accelerate readiness** for full attendance on Day 2.

Grounded in the Strategic Plan

Strategy 3: *We will ensure the social and emotional well-being of students and staff with an emphasis on mental wellness.*

Strategy 4: *We will foster trust and partnership amongst all staff, students, families, and community members.*

Strategy 4: Action Team Recommendation

- Mahtomedi schools and staff will identify and define the functional skills the students will need as they transition to new buildings.
- Design intentional transition systems and practices which provide relevant information (school, academic, social expectations) to prepare students to be successful as they progress through Mahtomedi Public Schools.

Why is the current first day especially difficult for students entering grade 6?

Mahtomedi Middle School (MMS)

- It is a big step to move from an elementary model to a secondary model (one teacher to multiple teachers)
 - **Navigating an unfamiliar building independently**
 - **Utilizing a locker, binder, Google Classroom**
- Overall fear of middle school and the unknown-
 - **Anxiety because of the older students**
 - **Lack of familiarity with schedules, lunch procedures, bus procedures**
- Entering a new school community and culture
 - **Not having one go-to person**
 - **All teachers and staff members are new**

My child's transition to the sixth grade went well this year.

81.64% Strongly Agree/Agree

2024-25 Mahtomedi Middle School Family Survey

Why is the current first day especially difficult for students entering grade 9?

Mahtomedi High School (MHS)

- Overall fear of high school and the unknown-
 - **anxiety because of the older students**
 - **lack of familiarity with their schedule and navigating the building**
- Learning the school community on the fly
- Academic skills - particularly organization
- Logistical issues - schedule/locker/building navigation/lunch/bus support issues on opening days creates a more hectic environment

My child's transition to the ninth grade went well this year.

79.25% Strongly Agree/Agree

2024-25 Mahtomedi High School Family Survey

What Changes Under the Proposal

MMS Proposed Schedule 8/31/26

Time	Activity	Location(s)
7:45-8:00	Drop-off / arrival	Commons
8:05-8:35	Students report to Middle School Success classroom	Throughout 6th grade pod
8:45-11:45	Small group sessions with WEB Leaders	Gym 1 and Classrooms
11:45-12:15	Lunch (Ensure all students have Lunch pins)	Commons
12:25-2:35	Schedule (Adjusted P1-7)	Whole school and in classrooms with teachers
2:35.-2:40	Dismissal, Bus Loading, and Pick Up	Hallway and Outside



MHS Proposed Schedule 8/31/26

Time	Activity	Location(s)
7:45-8:00	Drop-off / arrival	Commons
8:05-8:25	Welcome Link Crew Assembly	Chautauqua
8:30-10:30	Small group sessions with Link Crew Leaders and School Tours/Scavenger Hunt	24 classrooms without teachers in them and Whole School
10:35-11:10	Lunch (Ensure all students have Lunch pins)	Commons
11:15-2:00	Schedule (Adjusted P1-7)	Whole school and in classrooms with teachers
2:05-2:35	Pepfest	Large Gym



Why This is Better for Students: MMS

- Build community with Middle School Success teachers
- Navigate classes in a lower-stress setting with staff and WEB support
- Practice key routines: binders, schedules, Google Classroom, and lockers
- Learn lunch procedures with more support
- Improve end-of-day bus loading and dismissal
- Maximize the impact of the WEB transition experience
- Reduce overwhelm by giving students time to adjust and connect



Why This is Better for Students: MHS

- Learn to navigate the building and find key people and spaces
- Less crowded environment to bring up concerns/fix issues - lockers/lunch pins/buses
- Build early connections with Link Leaders, staff, and peers
- Begin to feel comfortable at MHS and connected to the school culture
- Practice walking their schedule
- Meet teachers throughout the day
- See classmates in each setting, increasing comfort for Day 2



Other Districts-6th and 9th Grade Only on First Day

Most districts utilize a transition day for new-to-the-building students.

Many use WEB and LINK Crew programs nationwide.

6/7 and 9th Graders only on the First Day of School

- Centennial
- Simley
- Forest Lake
- East Ridge
- Woodbury
- Park
- Roseville
- Tartan
- North St. Paul
- White Bear Lake
- Stillwater
- Irondale
- Mounds View
- Hastings



Tradeoffs & Mitigation

Current practices

MMS: WEB leaders run student orientation from 8a-12p on Wednesday of Teacher Workshop Week.

MHS: LINK crew leads orientation from 8a-12p on Tuesday of Teacher Workshop Week.

Benefits of adjusting to Day One Gr. 6/9 schedule:

- More teacher participation in welcome ceremony - tunnel/cheering/high fives
- Transportation runs as usual (no transportation last year - equity issue?)
- Impact on LINK crew recruitment (does not interfere with August sports practices/vacations)



How Success Will Be Measured

- **Post-first day survey for sixth and ninth grade families at the end of September**



Board Action Recommendation

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