

NORTH COUNTRY ROAD MIDDLE SCHOOL

191 North Country Road
Miller Place, New York 11764
(631) 474-2710
Fax (631) 474-5178

Seth A. Lipshie, Superintendent of Schools
Susan G. Craddock, Assistant Superintendent
Sandra Wojnowski, Executive Director for Educational Services
Christopher Herrschaft, Director of Human Resources

Matthew C. Clark, Principal
Christine Mangiamele, Assistant Principal
Matthew Nicoletti, Dean of Students

August 2022

Dear Grade 7th and 8th Parents and Guardians:

I hope this letter finds you enjoying the last few weeks of summer with family and friends. As we approach September, our thoughts turn from vacation activities to an action plan for a successful school year. Our **Head Custodian Jessalyn Barrett** and her staff have been working hard in order to prepare the building for student arrival. Building administration has been working with our office staff during the summer months to prepare student schedules, evaluate and maintain solid programs, and cultivate new initiatives that are designed to support our students. Despite the absence of our student body, our campus has been busy with projects that are easier to complete while school is not in session. Needless to say we are all looking forward to having your children back in our hallways, eager to explore what awaits them in our middle school!

Attached in this email you will find very important information for you and your child. Although this information may seem overwhelming, **please take the time to read through everything very carefully**. The contents included via the link provided in our email is information that does not necessarily need a response. We have also provided a mailing which includes documents that may require parent signatures that need to be returned to the school office.

Another resource that our district provides is **our school website** (www.millerplace.k12.ny.us), which will be helpful throughout the year for items like our monthly newsletter, special announcements, and other important information. For example, if you are in need of any forms from our school nurse, you will be able to click on the NCRMS Health Office "Quick Links" and download all the necessary forms for the upcoming school year.

The **7th grade student orientation will be held on Thursday, August 25th, and our 8th grade student orientation will be held on Monday, August 22nd**. Both days are designed for families to come in between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. at your convenience. Students will use the time to become acquainted with their lockers and have a chance to locate their classes using their schedule. You may bring supplies in on this day to place in your lockers if you choose. Families should use the doors by our Gymnasium to enter the building. Building administration and our guidance counselors will be present to assist both days of activities; however, our teaching staff will not be present. Our faculty and staff will also be available in the halls on the first day of school to help students.

Supplies: Our school supply lists for each grade and some specific courses have been posted for your review. Please refer to your child's schedule to determine their teachers for specific teams/classes. There may be some additional requests at the beginning of the year, but this list is an excellent starting point. Organization is an important skill that children need to develop as part of the middle school transition. The recommended supplies are designed to help develop organizational skills for each grade.

Class Schedule: Our school community will continue to use the school management system SchoolTool. It is likely that you already have an account that will provide access to significant information throughout the year. **You will need the parent portal to access your child's schedule, progress reports and report cards.** Class periods are forty-two minutes in length with three minutes provided for passing. Each day begins with attendance and morning announcements during first period. Please let us know if you have difficulty accessing your child's SchoolTool information. **Schedules will be provided for your review on Friday, August 19th.**

| NCRMS Class Time Schedule | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Period 1 | 7:40 - 8:25 a.m. |
| Period 2 | 8:28 - 9:10 a.m. |
| Period 3 | 9:13 - 9:55 a.m. |
| Period 4 | 9:58 - 10:40 a.m. |
| Period 5 | 10:43 - 11:25 a.m. |
| Period 6 | 11:28 - 12:10 p.m. |
| Period 7 | 12:13 - 12:55 p.m. |
| Period 8 | 12:58 - 1:40 p.m. |
| Period 9 | 1:43 - 2:25 p.m. |

Reading The Schedule: When you look at the schedule, you will see that each period (1 - 9) is listed just to the left of your teacher's name for each class. Each ten-week (quarter) and twenty-week (semester) course is listed on your schedule. Please be aware of the A day/B day schedule. Please refer to the district calendar (posted on the district website) if there is a question in reference to whether it is an A day or a B day. We will also make a daily announcement via WNCR. Read your schedule carefully and let our district office (474-2700) know if there are any changes in address or other personal information.

Schedule Problems: If there is an inquiry in reference to your child's schedule, please call our main office during summer hours (Mon - Thu, 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.) so that we can make any necessary changes. Please understand that teacher changes cannot be accommodated. Some examples of adjustments that will be addressed are: a schedule is missing a course, a student is scheduled for the wrong course, or more than one course was placed in the same period on the same day. **It is important to note that students may have a mixed team of teachers in grade 7 & 8, which is a more aligned model with the high school format.**

The N.Y.S. Education Department has mandated schools to provide **Academic Intervention Services (AIS)** to students in need of additional academic support. Recommendations for AIS services are based upon your child's standardized testing results, grades and teacher recommendations. In grade 7, AIS services will be provided to your child during the ten week "wheel" (i.e. Art, Art II, Health, Project Based Learning). AIS placement for Math and English Language Arts for grade 8 will take place in lieu of Family Consumer Science and and Health. Availability for this service is dependent upon the flexibility of the schedule at each grade level.

Lockers: The locker number and combination will be listed on your schedule. Remember these important rules about your locker:

- 1. Do not share your combination with anyone.**
- 2. Do not trade your locker with anyone.**
- 3. Do not mark or put any permanent additions in your locker.**

Student Conduct: We have prepared information for you about the *Miller Place School District Code of Conduct* and our School-Wide Discipline Plan, which will be found in the student handbook that is handed out during the first day of school. The last page of the handbook serves as a contract that we ask both students and their parent/guardian to sign. **Please spend some time with your child reading through the handbook on the evening of the first day of school and return the signed page on the following day.** We have also included information in reference to our attendance and eligibility policies.

Important Dates:

| | |
|---|--|
| Wednesday, August 24 th | BOE Meeting 8:00 p.m. MPHS |
| Thursday, September 1 st : | First Day of School |
| Monday, September 5 th : | Labor Day SCHOOL CLOSED |
| Friday, September 9 th : | NCRMS School Pictures |
| Wednesday, September 14 th : | NCRMS Grades 6, 7 & 8 Open House 7 – 9 p.m. |
| Saturday, September 17 th : | Homecoming Parade 1 p.m. / Game 2 p.m. |
| Wednesday, September 21 st : | National Junior Honor Society information meeting 6 p.m. @ Cafe |
| Monday, September 26 th & Tuesday, September 27 th : | Rosh Hashanah SCHOOL CLOSED |
| Wednesday, September 28 th : | BOE Meeting 8:00 p.m. MPHS |

Please adhere to the following **drop-off and pick-up procedures** at the North Country Road Middle School. The north roadway to NCRMS is closed to all traffic, except for buses in the morning from 7:25 a.m. to 7:35 a.m. The flashing red lights on a school bus mean it is illegal to pass a school bus in the school area during this time. It is also illegal to pass a school bus anywhere while the red lights are flashing. This is an important safety issue for the school buses, students, and staff. If you must provide transportation for morning or afternoon extracurricular activities, **please drop-off and pick-up in the parking lot on the Laddie A. Decker Sound Beach School driveway.** Thank you for your cooperation in this important matter. During school hours, all visitors will enter the building using our new main entrance on the north side of the building which is located in close proximity to our Main Office and our Nurse's Office.

Health Office: All 7th grade students are mandated by NYS law to submit a physical examination report. In addition, as of September 1, 2016, they must provide proof of receiving the meningococcal vaccine. Forms were handed out in the classroom to all students in June and can also be downloaded on the school website under the health office tab.

Buses for Extracurricular Activities: Our after school bus runs will be available for departure at 3:35 p.m. on Monday - Friday of each week, and we will continue to have a 4:30 p.m. bus run for athletics or other extended supervised activities.

Communication: Between home and school is most important for a successful school year. We will continue to provide a monthly newsletter, monthly menu with announcements, and information as necessary. Please check our **NCR FYI page**, which provides an outline of the week's events for your review. A link to the page can be found on the middle school home page. Our Ed-Connect System allows us to send a phone message and/or e-mail to the community for announcements that deserve special or immediate attention. If you ever have

any questions about anything at school, please call the NCRMS office at 474-2710 for assistance. Thank you for your time and patience digesting all of this information.

We are all looking forward to the excitement that each school year brings, and the positive growth of each individual that a new year of experience provides. On behalf of the faculty and staff, best wishes and much success during the 2022-2023 school year. We look forward to working with you during these important middle school years, which continue to build a foundation for the future!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew C. Clark". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "M".

Matthew C. Clark
Principal