

# NORTH COUNTRY ROAD MIDDLE SCHOOL

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April 2021

Dear Parents and/or Guardians:

I hope this month's newsletter finds you enjoying the arrival of spring, and the homestretch of our 2020-2021 school year. We move forward with caution toward a more normal practice, providing opportunities that go beyond where we have been during the past months of this school year. Middle school Interscholastic athletics have begun, and our performance based music groups have moved to a more traditional rehearsal delivery of instruction. More students are learning "in-person", which brings some challenges to our process along the way. I appreciate the cooperation that has taken place when overcoming obstacles that stand in our way, and look forward to positive adjustments that are in our future.

Our students in grades 6-8 will challenge the ***New York State English Language Arts (ELA) on Tuesday, April 20<sup>th</sup>***, and the ***Mathematics Assessments will be Wednesday, May 4<sup>th</sup>***. The exam has been reduced to one day instead of two from year's past, and students are still provided unlimited time to complete the exam. For the ***NYS assessment in English Language Arts***, students are expected to read independently during the administration of the exams and answer a wide range of questions that require text analysis. Students will respond to a number of questions using details or "evidence" from the text they read. Reading, writing, and language standards are assessed using multiple choice, short-response, and extended-response questions. Questions are based upon close reading of informational, literary, or paired texts.

For the ***NYS assessment in Mathematics***, the problems involve a focus upon fluency (speed and accuracy with simple calculations) and the ability to answer multi-step questions that are rooted in the real world. The Math assessment will be administered on ***Wednesday, May 4<sup>th</sup>***. There's more information about the assessments on the New York State website [EngageNY.org](https://www.engageny.org). Please take a moment to check out what's posted there. As in the past, only those that are enrolled in Math 8 will challenge the NYS assessment, while those taking Algebra I will be given an opportunity to challenge the Regents exams. In the area of Science, 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will take the NYS Science Assessment or the NYS Regents in Earth Science. These assessments are one variable that is used to determine the levels of achievement and those students who will need Academic Intervention Services (other variables include final grades, final exam grades, and teacher recommendation) as mandated by the New York State Education Department.

## **State Assessment Dates:**

Tuesday, April 20 <sup>th</sup> :	English Language Arts (grades 6 - 8)
Wednesday, May 4 <sup>th</sup> :	Mathematics (grades 6 - 8)
Tuesday, June 1 <sup>st</sup> :	Grade 8 Science Performance Test
Monday, June 7 <sup>th</sup> :	Grade 8 Science Written
Thursday, June 21 <sup>st</sup> :	Earth Science Regents (9:15 a.m.)
Wednesday, June 23 <sup>rd</sup> :	Algebra I Regents (9:15 a.m.)

The third marking period ended on **Friday, April 16<sup>th</sup>**. Parents are reminded to check the Parent Portal of our student management system to keep up with your child's academic progress and attendance record. The Parent Portal is available via the internet. If you need information about logging onto the Parent Portal, please call **Ms. Natalie Vazquez** at the district office, 474-2700 extension 728.

The **scheduling** process for the 2021- 2022 school year is already underway, our current 8<sup>th</sup> grade students participated in a **high school scheduling orientation** with MPHS and NCRMS guidance counselors. The counselors provided information in reference to the scheduling process for next year and the strategy for their high school experience. Please contact the Miller Place High School Guidance office with specific questions about the MPHS schedule. Our **sixth grade students** have been given the opportunity to select a World Language course of study from the course offerings in our middle school, Spanish, Italian, or French. We are also "rolling over" the **music course selection** that your child is currently enrolled in. It is important to note that our general music program ends in grade seven. Those that are not enrolled in performance based music will have a study hall in grade eight. If you have any questions about your child's music course for the 2021 - 2022 school year, please call our guidance department at the middle school.

As part of our health curriculum, sixth grade students will participate in a puberty lesson which includes a video entitled, **Amazing Changes** on **Friday, April 16<sup>th</sup>**. This program is arranged in accordance with the New York State curriculum guidelines to educate our students about the physical and emotional changes that occur during puberty and to recognize and value what is unique within themselves during this time of their lives. You are invited to preview the videos (one that is shown to the boys and one that is shown to the girls) which will be made available via a link that we will provide for you during the week of April 5<sup>th</sup>.

Our **National Junior Honor Society** has asked for design ideas for this year's button that will be given to every senior to wear on graduation day! Advisors will hand out the template during the lunch periods so students have an idea of the size of the button. This annual tradition maintains a connection to our High School graduates as they walk across the stage to accept their diploma. The contest will run from **Monday, April 5<sup>th</sup> through Friday, April 30<sup>th</sup>**.

**Important April dates and events:**

Friday, April 16 <sup>th</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Making Period Ends
Tuesday, April 20 <sup>th</sup>	NYS ELA Assessment / Grades 6-8
Wednesday, April 28 <sup>th</sup>	BOE Meeting MPHS @ 8:00 PM

**Listed below are some of our NCRMS student accomplishments/events:**

The North Country Road Middle School continued our annual **MATHCON** event despite the unique circumstances of the COVID protocols that we have faced this year. Twenty eight students competed in three sessions during the week of March 8. The online exam is a timed contest that includes forty questions to be answered in the allotted forty minutes. The questions require ingenuity and insight that is predominantly on grade level. The exam includes problems of varying degrees of difficulty that enables all students to be equally challenged. Students scoring the highest scores in each grade level are invited to participate in the next round which involves a written test. Three of our participants qualified as finalists, followed by two individuals who qualified as alternate finalists that may compete depending on enrollment. The three finalists include **Christopher Barton** (grade 9), a five time finalist, **Stephen Ye**, (grade 7) a two time finalist and **Jonathan Bang**, (grade 7) a first time finalist. Our two alternates are **Lucy Chang** (grade 8) and **Matthew Cirrito** (grade 8). A special thank you to **Ms. Maureen Radday** who organized and coordinated the annual event as she does every year. Thank you to **Ms. Corinne D'Andrea** as well, for providing assistance supervising the students in the virtual setting.

On **March 22<sup>nd</sup>**, the NCR middle school community dressed in blue and yellow, and wore “crazy socks” in recognition of **Down Syndrome Awareness Day**. The day began with a video that served to educate our student body in reference to Down Syndrome and provide a spring board for awareness. The NJHS sold bracelets to raise money that would be donated to the Down Syndrome Advocacy Foundation. A special thank you to our NJHS advisor, **Ms. Nicole Farley** ([nfarley@millerplace.k12.ny.us](mailto:nfarley@millerplace.k12.ny.us) )

Congratulations to our March character coupon winners, **Noelle Nania (grade 6)**, **Aubrey Earle (grade 7)**, and **Isabella Schuster (grade 8)** were given some tangible rewards for their acts of kindness and compassion from local vendors and merchants.

In order to prevent some potential traffic issues in our parking lots, children that are to be dropped-off and picked-up before and after school hours should be using the back parking lot that is accessible by the Laddie A. Decker Sound Beach School Driveway. **The NCRMS “north roadway” is closed to all traffic except buses from 7:00 a.m. to 7:40 a.m. and from 2:15 p.m. until 2:30 p.m.** Your cooperation and interest in the safety of our students is appreciated.

Schools across the nation are taking measures to enhance safety standards in their communities. It is very important that you **remember to bring proper identification with you when signing your child out** of our school for any reason. Please ensure that family members/friends listed on the Census Verification Card are able to provide identification as well.

A brief reminder in reference to **school closings and delayed openings**: ***In case of adverse weather and/or road conditions, the district schools may be closed or delayed by two or three hours, depending on the severity of the weather.*** Visit News 12 and our website where school closings, delayed openings, and inclement weather bus stops will be posted. You will also be notified via our communication system Ed Connect, which will send a phone call and/or an email to the numbers/addresses on file. **Please be sure that you discuss your early dismissal plan with your child.**

We have posted a number of informational items for your review. One example that will always accompany the newsletter is the monthly publication titled, **Middle Years**, which provides information and ideas to help support your adolescent child. The website for middle school interscholastic athletics information is <http://www.sectionxi.org>. Please check this website for dates of games, directions, etc. Also, take a look at the **FYI NCR Page** a link can be found on the NCRMS homepage. The goal of this website is to help inform students and parents about all of the great things that are planned for the North Country Road Middle School. Please visit the District's homepage (<http://www.millerplace.k12.ny.us/>) to find the link that will bring you to a site dedicated to promoting Miller Place School District happenings. Scroll through the page to see news stories and photos as we celebrate our District's hardworking students and dedicated staff. This page can also be accessed by visiting <http://millerplaceinthedia.com/>.

From time to time the guidance office receives information on **enrichment programs**. If you are interested in learning more about these programs contact your child's guidance counselor.

Feel free to contact your child's teachers, guidance counselor, or any member of the administration at any time to answer your questions or address your concerns. Remember, no concern is too small. Working together, we can help your child reach his or her maximum potential in order to experience success.

Sincerely,  
*Matthew C. Clark*  
Matthew C. Clark

Sincerely,  
*Christine Mangiamele*  
Christine Mangiamele

Sincerely,  
*Nicole Farley*  
Nicole Farley

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Enc.