

NORTH COUNTRY ROAD MIDDLE SCHOOL

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

Marianne F. Cartisano, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools
Seth A. Lipshie, Deputy Superintendent
Susan G. Craddock, Assistant Superintendent
Sandra Wojnowski, Executive Director for Educational Services

Matthew C. Clark, Principal
Christopher Herrschaft, Assistant Principal
Christopher Cherouvis, Dean of Students

April 2019

Dear Parents and/or Guardians:

I hope this month's newsletter finds you enjoying the arrival of spring, and the homestretch of our 2018-2019 school year. Our students in grades 6-8 will challenge the **New York State English Language Arts (ELA) on Tuesday, April 2nd, and Wednesday, April 3rd, and the Mathematics Assessments will be administered in the month of May.** The exam has been reduced to two days instead of three, and students are still provided unlimited time to complete the exam, which is a feature that was added last year. We will accommodate students using more time beyond the traditional structure of the testing period. 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 rigorous textual analysis. Students 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. This includes deciding which formulas and tools to use. The Math test will be administered on **Wednesday, May 1st, and Thursday, May 2nd**. There's more information about the assessments on the New York State website 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 enrolled in Algebra I will challenge the Regents exams. In the area of Science, 8th 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 2 nd & Wednesday, April 3 rd :	English Language Arts (grades 6 - 8)
Wednesday, May 1 st & Thursday, May 2 nd :	Mathematics (grades 6 - 8)
Thursday, May 30 th :	Grade 8 Science Performance Test
Monday, June 3 rd :	Grade 8 Science Written
Wednesday, June 19 th :	Algebra I Regents (12:00 p.m.)
Thursday, June 20 th :	Earth Science Regents (12:00 p.m.)

The third marking period ended on **Friday, March 29th**. 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.

Planning for the **8th Grade Moving-Up Ceremony and Dance** is underway! Parent volunteers are needed to assist with preparations for the dance. This year's theme is a "Night at the Oscars". The dance parent volunteer meetings are as follows: **Thursday, April 4th, Tuesday, May 7th, Tuesday, May 21st, Tuesday, June 11th, Wednesday, June 12th, and Thursday, June 13th from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. and Friday, June 14th at 2:45 p.m.** All meetings will take place in the NCRMS Cafeteria and all parents are encouraged to volunteer. For further information on volunteering, please contact one of our Student Government advisor, Mrs. Farley at nfarley@millerplace.k12.ny.us or Ms. Healy at mahealy@millerplace.k12.ny.us. The dance will take place on **Friday, June 14th, at 7 p.m.** in the NCRMS Cafeteria and the ceremony will be on Monday, **June 24th, at 7 p.m.** in the NCRMS Gymnasium. Students are not expected to rent tuxedos or purchase "prom" type gowns for **either event**. It is a fun and informal event held to celebrate the completion of middle school.

The **scheduling** process for the 2019 - 2020 school year is already underway, our current 8th 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 received a visit from our **LOTE** teachers (Languages Other Than English), who were accompanied by some of our high school and eighth grade students to discuss the different languages that are studied in grades seven and eight. Students selected 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 2019 - 2020 school year, please call our guidance department at the middle school.

The **National Junior Honor Society** is conducting a **food drive** to help families in our community and across Long Island. The drive will run from Monday, March 25th through Friday, April 12th. All items donated will be sent to Long Island Cares, Inc. /The Harry Chapin Food Bank. The **top 10** most needed items are: Low fat, boxed and non-refrigerated milk, white rice, canned vegetables, cooking oil, cereals, pasta, tomato sauce, canned meat, poultry and fish, peanut butter, and jelly, jams and spreadable fruit. No glass jars, please! Please visit www.licares.org to find out more about this wonderful organization.

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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 12th**. 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) on **Tuesday, April 9th, at 7:00 p.m.** in Room 41 of the Music Suite, at the North Country Road Middle School.

It's that time of year again! On **Friday, April 5th**, the Student Government will be holding its **annual Fight A.L.S. Dodgeball Tournament** in the high school gymnasium at 6:00. Students have been asked to make teams that include 10 individuals, and there will be 2 teacher teams that will play as the grand finale. Money raised at this event will go to the Ride For Life organization to help in the battle against this deadly disease. We continue to serve as a partner to find a cure!

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 8th through Friday, May 3rd**. Entry forms can be picked up in the library.

Important April dates and events:

Friday, April 5 th :	Report Cards Posted Annual Doge Ball Tournament, 6:00 p.m. MPHS Gymnasium
Friday, April 12 th :	PTO Teen Rec & Club Illumination, Gr 6, 7:00- 9:00 pm @ NCRMS
Wednesday, April 17 th :	BOE Meeting 8:00 p.m. @ MPHS
April 19 th – April 26 th :	Spring Recess, Schools Closed

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

On **March 21st**, the NCR 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 Student government sold bracelets to raise money that would be donated to the Down Syndrome Advocacy Foundation. This endeavor was led by Student Government under the direction of Advisors Nicole Farley (nfarley@millerplace.k12.ny.us) and Mara Healy (mhealy@millerplace.k12.ny.us).

Mrs. Sommo's 8th grade FACS classes held their first **Cupcake Food Truck War**. They spent 5 days planning, collaborating, calculating and developing a unique recipe for a cupcake truck. The lesson required them to stay within their budget and make a profit by selling all of their products with (play money) to the students in Mr. Flaiz's Tech class. It was a great experience for all who participated in real world situations."

In the month of March, a group of our musical students were selected to the **Division I and Division II SCMEA High School All County Ensembles**. The ensemble practiced together three times before performing at the SCMEA All County Music Festival. Congratulation to all!

A number of students from NCRMS have been recognized for exceptional art work! Students from Mrs. Nina Wood's class have their art work in the **Art in Heart Exhibit in Massapequa**, in the Westfield Sunrise Mall. The location of the event is the Upper Level next to PacSun. The exhibit is available to the public from March 11th- April14th. The opening reception is Saturday March 30th, from 1:00pm-3:00pm. **Ahnabella Danchalski**, Grade 8 (figure sculpture) *Award winner for Excellence in Sculpture*, **Mackenzie DeMarino**, Grade 8 (abstract sculpture) and **Josie Attisano**, Grade 6 (fish drawing). More students from Mrs. Wood's class have work at the *Legislative Student Art Exhibit* in Albany. Exhibit is held in the "Well" in the Legislative Office Building. Congratulations to **Madison Blaha**, Grade 6 (Drawing), and **Kate Walter**, Grade 8 (Drawing). Congratulations to all!

On March 19th, **our NCRMS book club** held a skype session with **Dusti Bowling**, author of *Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus*. It was great to see students collaborate with Ms. Bowling, and learn not only about the stories that she has written, but also about the process that she uses when writing. A special thank you to Mrs. Farrell farrell@millerplace.k12.ny.us, our School librarian for providing this experience.

On March 20th, **Mrs. Sommo** dsommo@millerplace.k12.ny.us invited officers from the **Suffolk County Sherriff's Department and the department of Corrections** to speak with her 3rd period class. Mrs. Kelly Mazzotta (Public Relations), Thomas Indence (Deputy Sheriff) and Chris Delaney (Correction Officer) shared a wealth of experience in reference to their role in law enforcement, and the path they traveled to get to a career that they truly enjoy!

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://millerplaceinthemedia.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,
Christopher Herrschaft
Christopher Herrschaft

Sincerely,
Christopher Cherouvis
Christopher Cherouvis

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