

# 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  
Christine Mangiamele, Assistant Principal  
Domenico Lo Re, Dean of Students  
Dr. Elizabeth Bradshaw, Dean of Students

February 2020

Dear Parents and/or Guardians:

As you are reading this newsletter we are half-way through the 2019-2020 school year! The last five months have been filled with many events and achievements that continue to shape our young students. We should all be excited about the prospects for the New Year.

The **scheduling** process for the 2020 - 2021 school year is already underway. In cooperation with the 9<sup>th</sup> grade parent orientation (held at the Miller Place High School), our current 8<sup>th</sup> grade students participated in a **high school scheduling orientation** on Wednesday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, 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** will meet with members of our **LOTE** teachers (Languages Other Than English) to discuss the different languages that are studied in grades seven and eight. Students will be able to choose Spanish, Italian, or French as a course of study. 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 after 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 2020 - 2021 school year, please call our guidance department at the middle school.

As we enter the second semester of the academic year, we are headed into the "homestretch" in reference to the preparation for the state assessments. Students in grades 6, 7, and 8 will take the **New York State assessment in English/Language Arts**, and all students in grades 6 & 7 will take the **assessment in Mathematics**. As in the past, only those that are enrolled in Math 8 will challenge the New York State assessment, while those enrolled in Algebra I will 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:**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Friday, February 8 <sup>th</sup> :                                  | Algebra I Mid-term Exam (7:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.) |
| Tuesday, April 2 <sup>nd</sup> & Wednesday, April 3 <sup>rd</sup> : | English Language Arts (grades 6 - 8)            |
| Wednesday, May 1 <sup>st</sup> & Thursday, May 2 <sup>nd</sup> :    | Mathematics (grades 6 - 8)                      |
| Thursday, May 30 <sup>th</sup> :                                    | Grade 8 Science Performance Test                |
| Monday, June 3 <sup>rd</sup> :                                      | Grade 8 Science Written                         |
| Wednesday, June 19 <sup>th</sup> :                                  | Algebra I Regents (12:00 p.m.)                  |
| Thursday, June 20 <sup>th</sup> :                                   | Earth Science Regents (12:00 p.m.)              |

Our **3rd Annual STEAM night** will take place on Tuesday, February 11th! The event is an expo-style, open house of interactive workshops, activities, and challenges for students to experience the disciplines of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math). We have welcomed local science & technology businesses, organizations, community groups, and parents to collaborate with our teachers to provide amazing opportunities for our school community. We welcome you to be a part of an amazing event! Doors open at 6 p.m. Please use the following **link to register**:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0D49ADAA2FA3FA7-steam3>

The NCRMS National Junior Honor Society has organized a **blood drive** in cooperation with the Long Island Blood Services, A Division of New York Blood Center. The event will take place on **Tuesday, February 4<sup>th</sup>**, from **2:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.** in the NCRMS gymnasium. Blood is only available because of generous volunteer donors that give the gift of life. On behalf of the hospitals and patients that are counting on us, the Long Island Blood Services would like to extend a thank you for taking the time out of your busy day to donate. Please email your name and preferred time to [rferro@millerplace.k12.ny.us](mailto:rferro@millerplace.k12.ny.us) or [nfarley@millerplace.k12.ny.us](mailto:nfarley@millerplace.k12.ny.us) for an appointment to donate.

The **Miller Place High School Panther Players** are preparing for their musical production of the "**Mamma Mia**". Tickets are now available for purchase. Please purchase your tickets early, as we hope to sell out quickly due to the show's popularity. The schedule kicks off on Saturday, February 29<sup>th</sup>, and includes March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, & 3<sup>rd</sup>. Break a leg! We hope to see you there!

**Important February Dates:**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Tuesday, February 4 <sup>th</sup> :                           | NCRMS Blood Drive 2:30-9:00 p.m. gymnasium            |
| Tuesday, February 11 <sup>th</sup>                            | NCRMS STEAM Night                                     |
| Monday, Feb. 17 <sup>th</sup> – Friday, Feb. 21 <sup>st</sup> | Mid-Winter Recess Schools Closed                      |
| Wednesday, February 26 <sup>th</sup>                          | B.O.E. Meeting 8:00 p.m. @ MPHS<br>Budget Workshop #1 |

Our **Lost and Found** boxes contain a number of items that are waiting to be reclaimed. The Lost and Found boxes are located in the cafeteria and in the gymnasium. Every week, there are additional items of clothing, notebooks, and even textbooks. Please discuss this issue with your children and ask them to look in the Lost and Found boxes prior to purchasing a new item. Students are expected to pay for lost textbooks, which can be rather expensive. Please encourage your child to check the Lost and Found (located in the cafeteria) before the February vacation for clothing and textbooks.

**Please read about our many middle school events and accomplishments below:**

Congratulations to all that participated in our **2020 National Geographic Geography Bee!!!** Students participated in the Geography Bee on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, a contest that includes questions about our state, our nation, and as we move deeper into the questions, the inquiries include a more global perspective. The questions address geography, geology, and of course the political and economic systems that exist around the world. Our champion this year is **Marc Lindemann (grade 6)**, with our runner up **Michael Drago (grade 7)** not far behind, and **Cameron Golding (grade 7)** placed third. A special thank you to **Mrs. Jacquie Sanatore** for her leadership in reference to this endeavor.

In 2018, our grade seven wheel was amended to include a course called **Project Based Learning**, an opportunity for students to select an interest that they research for a majority of the quarter. After gathering the appropriate background knowledge, students prepare a presentation method of their choosing to share their interest with classmates. **Julianna Skoblicki** (grade 7) prepared a Powerpoint presentation in reference to protecting the diamondback terrapins on Long Island in partnership with **Friends of Flax pond**. Beyond the information, she also fabricated bracelets to dedicate funds for the endeavor, and has raised over \$400 to support the cause! Congratulations to Julianna for all of her efforts and a special thank you to **Mrs. DeSario** for her guidance with all the amazing projects that have been delivered in the PBL course.

Students from the North Country Road Middle School were invited to challenge the annual **American Mathematics Competition** for grade eight (AMC 8). The AMC 8 competition is designed for middle school students and its purpose is to provide an opportunity for your child to demonstrate their knowledge and ability in the area of mathematics. Three students placed in the competition as per the MMA rules in reference to student results. **Jacqueline Reduto (grade 8)** received a bronze medal for their third place score. **Alan Yue (grade 8)** received a silver medal for receiving the second highest score in the middle school. The top score was earned by **Lucy Chang (grade 7)**, who received the gold medal for her top score at North Country Road. Congratulations to all involved, with a special thank you to Math teacher **Mrs. Maureen Radday** for all of her efforts in reference to providing this opportunity for our students.

On Saturday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, **Team “ExtraOrdinary”**, a group of more than 30 young people from Long Island braved the cold and participated in the Town of Brookhaven’s 10<sup>th</sup> annual Polar Plunge. The team raised over \$12,000 and has now donated over \$54,000 over the past few years to the Special Olympics. Team founder and co – captain **Mary Fitton (grade 8)** teamed up to work with her older brother Robert, inspired by their younger brother Thomas who was born with Down Syndrome in 2013. These young people are shining examples of their community and we look forward to hearing about the team’s support of the Special Olympics next year!

| NCRMS Team “ExtraOrdinary” Members |                   |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Mary Fitton (Co Captain)           | Julia Almodovar   |
| Mia Amundsen                       | Josie Attisano    |
| Brooke Borkowski                   | Spencer Bruno     |
| Brooke Callaghan                   | Kyla Ierna Petrie |
| Grace Kelly                        | Evelyn Paul       |
| Nicholas Vallary                   | Isabella Zaher    |

Congratulations to **Michael Giugliano (grade 8)**, a student athlete that was named wrestler of the week in January for his domination during the West Islip dual meet, where he went undefeated winning four matches, including wins against opponents were ranked second in their regions.

Congratulations to our January character coupon winners, **Riley Levine (grade 6)**, **Kayden Aaron (grade 7)**, and **Chloe Kessinger (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*  
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Sincerely,  
*Christine Mangiamele*  
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Sincerely,  
*Domenico Lo Re*  
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Sincerely,  
*Elizabeth Bradshaw*  
Elizabeth Bradshaw

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