

NORTH COUNTRY ROAD MIDDLE SCHOOL

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February 2021

Dear Parents and/or Guardians:

As you are reading this newsletter we are half-way through the 2020-2021 school year! Despite the limitations that challenge us everyday, the last five months have been filled with many events and achievements that continue to shape our young students. We look forward to greener pastures as we move forward.

Thank you for your responses to the **Student Health Questionnaire** for each week. We have been working to ensure this process can be made as user friendly as possible. Please contact us if you have any questions in reference to the process.

For Students in grades 7 & 8 that have quarterly and semester classes. We begin our new courses for quarter three on Monday! Teachers will contact you into the new course via a google invitation, and we have posted the changes in our FYI page as well as on our bulletin boards for in person students looking for room changes. **Please do not delete your previous classes, as it is necessary to remain in the course for teachers to calculate final grades.**

The **scheduling** process for the 2021 - 2022 school year will begin this month. 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 does not continue 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 2021 - 2022 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 are scheduled to challenge the **New York State assessment in English/Language Arts**, and students in grades 6 & 7 will take the **assessment in Mathematics**. As in the past, only those that are enrolled in Math 8 from our grade 8 population will sit for the New York State 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:

Grade 6 – 8 English Language Arts	Tuesday, April 20, 2021 & Wednesday, April 21, 2021
Grade 6 – 8 Mathematics	Tuesday, May 4, 2021 & Wednesday, May 5, 2021
Grade 8 Science Performance exam	Tuesday, June 1, 2021
Grade 8 Science Written exam	Monday, June 7, 2021

Our **4th Annual STEAM night** will take place during the first week of February! The expo-style event has been reshaped to be provided in a virtual setting, and will include 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! Please see our district website for the list of vendors that will be there, and use the link below. The “NCR Middle School” drop down menu will be in the upper right corner.

<https://sites.google.com/view/steamweek/home>

The 2020-21 North Country Road Middle School **pre order yearbook sale** will open this Monday, February 1st, and remain open until Friday, February 12th. Please order during this timeframe to ensure there is a book for you! Please go to our NCRMS FYI page to find the ordering process. This pre order sale reserves a book for individuals to obtain when they are distributed in June.

<https://sites.google.com/millerplace.k12.ny.us/fyipagencrms/home>

Important February Dates:

Friday, February 5 th :	Report Cards Posted
Monday, February 15 th – Friday, February 19 th	Mid-Winter Recess Schools Closed
Wednesday, February 24 th	B.O.E. Meeting

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 our **National Junior Honor Society Inductees** in reference to inspiring presentations during the first week of February. Thank you to our Dean of Students and National Junior Honor Society advisor **Ms. Nicole Farley** for her leadership during the selection process and preparation for the event. Congratulations to **Ms. Allison DeSario** who was selected as this year’s honorary faculty member. The following individuals were named to the National Junior Honor Society:

National Junior Honor Society Inductees 2020-21

Chris Amendola	Samantha DeRosa	Emily Lopez	Brayden Rowe
Josie Attisano	Valentina DiGiuseppe	Gabrielle Maggio	Noah Samonas
Marena Bielenda	Katelynn Dimaiuta	Madison McErlean	Julianna Skoblicki
Madison Blaha	Gianna Donofrio	Andrew McGuirk	Gwendolyn Smith
Abigail Bosshard	Michael Drago	Taylor McHugh	Noah Squires
Fiona Burzynski	Angelica Efstathiou	Jayden Meadows	Emma Synan
Nicholas Calandrino	Erin Felser	Jason Milette	Jackson Thompson
Brooke Callaghan	Christian Fisher	Ashlyn Mistretta	Hailey Turner
Natalie Cervenka	Mary Fitton	Sofia Moore	Jackson Vaccariello
Lucy Chang	Kaitlyn Goetz	Isabella Morano	Nicholas Vallary
Matthew Cirrito	Carolena Hanauer	Hailey Murphy	Claire Wagner
Christian Conway	Hannah Higgins	Virginia O’Hanlon	Richard Wink
Anders Dalberg	Dane Lagrasta	Evelyn Paul	Isabella Zaher
Meadow Dalberg	Jamie Lewis	Sean Pepe	Ava Zicchinelli
Emily Darragh	Lucas Lockel	Kayla Portigiano	Bianca Zou
Carrie Davis	Abigail LoNigro	Nailah Rahman	

Congratulations to our January character coupon winners, **Elijah Garretson (grade 6), Gavin Peterson (grade 7), and Tristan Rodriguez (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

MCC:jlm
Enc.