

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
Nicole Farley, Dean of Students

February 2022

Dear Parents and/or Guardians:

As you are reading this newsletter, we are half-way through the 2021-2022 school year! Despite the limitations that challenge us every day, 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.

Students in grades 7 & 8 have moved into new classes that are scheduled for 10 weeks (quarterly) or 20 weeks (semester). Teachers will invite students into the new course via a message in the Google classroom, 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 2022 - 2023 school year will begin this month. Our **sixth-grade students** will meet with members of our MPHS World Language Honor Society to discuss the different languages that are studied in grades seven and eight. 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 2022 - 2023 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, March 29, 2022 & Wednesday, March 30, 2022
Grade 6 – 8 Mathematics	Tuesday, April 26, 2022 & Wednesday, April 27, 2022
Grade 8 Science Performance exam	Wednesday, June 1, 2022
Grade 8 Science Written exam	Monday, June 6, 2022

Mrs. Gewurz, our Andrew Muller Primary School Principal has asked me to include some pertinent information in reference to **Kindergarten registration for the 2022-23 school year**. Registration for next year’s enrollment will begin on March 1st. You can reference the link below on the AMPS website to get any information you need.

[2022-2023 Kindergarten Registration Letter a.pdf \(millerplace.k12.ny.us\)](https://www.millerplace.k12.ny.us/2022-2023%20Kindergarten%20Registration%20Letter%20a.pdf)

It's that time of year where we invite our student body to join us for **MATHCON!** The event includes an online challenge that includes a timed contest (forty minutes) and is entirely multiple-choice questions. 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. There is an opportunity beyond our local contest for those that qualify for the next level, which would include an invitation to the MATHCON finals at the University of Illinois at Chicago in April for a paper-based examination. If your child is interested in participating, please join the Google Classroom to log in and follow the directions there. The Google Classroom code is **ebency**. You can also inquire with your Math teacher for information or if you are having difficulties joining the classroom.

Important February Dates:

Tuesday, February 1 st	NJHS Blood Drive NCR GYM 2:30pm-9pm
Friday, February 4 th	Report Cards Posted
Wednesday, February 16 th	B.O.E. Meeting
Monday, February 21 st – Friday, February 25 th	Mid-Winter Recess Schools Closed

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 main office, 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 involved during our **Winter concert series** this year. This year's schedule was to include performances in front of family and friends, which presented challenges for most concerts due to appropriate spacing protocols. A collaborative effort between administration and our music department provided a plan that included moving most of our presentations to the NCRMS gymnasium. The setting change challenged tradition, both in planning rehearsals and the nuances of each concert, acclimating to the spacing and acoustics of our gymnasium. Congratulations to our student performers, as well as our music teachers **Ms. Desiderio (Orchestra 6), Ms. Dimitriou (Chorus 6-8), Ms. Kirby (Band 6-8), and Mr. Matura (Orchestra 7 & 8)** for their dedication to bringing back live performances! Our Winter concerts are an example of perseverance during difficult times and pulling together to achieve a common goal.

Our **National Junior Honor Society** planned a **Food Drive** in cooperation with the **Miller Place Parent Teacher Organization** to assist with stocking our brand new food pantry on campus. The NJHS placed boxes in each period one class, asking students to bring in non perishable items. The results are impressive, and the plan is to conduct additional food drives to maintain the level of support for our local community in need. Special thank you to **Ms. Sanatore, Ms. Farley, and Ms. Pedersen** for their work in this endeavor.

Our **National Junior Honor Society** partnered with **Long Island Blood Services** to host a **blood drive** on Tuesday, February 1st. Despite the fact that the Winter months make it difficult to schedule this event, our organization provides this opportunity on an annual basis, with other opportunities during the school year are scheduled in the Fall and during the Springtime months. We scheduled over twenty appointments and also had a few individuals walk in to donate 33 pints of blood. It was nice to see people come together to help those in need. A special thank you to **Ms. Sanatore** for her efforts as the advisor to our NJHS.

Congratulations to our January character coupon winners, **Ella Behrens (grade 6), Noah Bloom (grade 7), and Ayden Blumberg (grade 8)** were given some tangible rewards for their acts of kindness and compassion from local vendors and merchants.

On January 21, 27 students from grades 6, 7, & 8 participated in the **AMC 8 Competition**. The American Math Competition is a 25-question, 40-minute, multiple choice examination in middle school mathematics designed to promote the development of problem-solving skills. Students apply classroom skills to unique problem-solving challenges in a low-stress and friendly environment. The AMC 8 provides an opportunity for middle school students to develop positive attitudes towards analytical thinking and mathematics that can assist in future careers. Students were invited to participate by their math teachers and volunteered to compete in this competition on a Friday afternoon. Many thanks to **Ms. Radday** for her efforts in providing this opportunity for our students.

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,
Christine Mangiamele
Christine Mangiamele

Sincerely,
Nicole Farley
Nicole Farley

MCC:jlm
Enc.