

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. Hodun, Assistant Superintendent
Sandra Wojnowski, Executive Director for Educational Services

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

February 2019

Dear Parents and/or Guardians:

As you are reading this newsletter we are half-way through the 2018-2019 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 2019 - 2020 school year is already underway. In cooperation with the 9th grade parent orientation (held at the Miller Place High School), our current 8th grade students participated in a **high school scheduling orientation** on Tuesday, January 29th, 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 some 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 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.

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 Common Core 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.

This year the students in our **accelerated classes** (Earth Science and Algebra I) will challenge a **mid-term** that will emulate the process at our High School. The date of our Algebra I midterm is **Friday, February 8th**, from 7:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. There will be special schedules that will include rooms for administration, as well as room changes if necessary. This year the Earth Science midterm is scheduled during regular class time. Please refer to the midterm testing schedule posted on the FYI page of the website for dates and times of the Earth Science midterm as well as all other midterms.

State Assessment Dates:

Friday, February 8 th :	Algebra I Mid-term Exam (7:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.)
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.)

Given the ever increasing need to ensure student safety, our middle school conducts a series of emergency drills each year. As part of our district safety plan, we conducted a **lockdown drill** on **Tuesday, December 11th**. Students remained in the building and movement was restricted as per our district protocol. Prior to the event, we impressed upon the students the importance of this drill and their role in reference to the significance of listening and following directions. Following the drill, students resumed their normal activity.

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 5th**, from **2:30 p.m. – 8:30 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 ferro@millerplace.k12.ny.us or rofarrel@millerplace.k12.ny.us for an appointment to donate.

The **Miller Place High School Panther Players** are very excited to announce their musical production of the Disney's "**Newsies**". The uplifting tale of the 1899 New York City Newsies Strike has touched the hearts of viewers for generations. Originally a hit film, Newsies was turned into a Broadway musical where it was met with even more success than in the movie theaters. With an awesome story, acrobatic dances and dynamic characters, Newsies is big fun for the whole family. Tickets are now available for purchase. Please purchase your tickets early, as we hope to sell out quickly due to the show's popularity. We hope to see you there!

Important February Dates:

Friday, February 1 st :	Report Cards #2 Posted
Tuesday, February 5 th :	NCRMS Blood Drive 2:30-9:00 p.m. gymnasium
Monday, Feb. 18 th – Friday, Feb. 22 nd :	Mid-Winter Recess Schools Closed
Wednesday, February 27 th :	B.O.E. Meeting 8:00 p.m. @ MPHS 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:

On Wednesday, December 5th: we welcomed **Mike Harrold**, founder of **Jambo Productions**, to share his experiences and passion for Egypt. Mr. Harrold is a photographer, writer, educator, and world- traveler to 75 countries and based in the world's most multicultural center, the city of New York. He visited to share his experiences and passion for Egypt, a country studied by our sixth grade students. During his presentation, he told stories and shared pictures of his travels to the region. After the presentation, students were able to visit his exhibition of artifacts that he has accumulated over the years in our library, which was transformed into a mini-museum. Students had the opportunity to interact with the artifacts and ask questions of Mr. Harrold on a more individual basis.

The **Miller Place PTO Holiday Shoppe** was open in our middle school cafeteria for two days during lunch for the first time! Parent volunteers were here to provide opportunities for students to shop for their friends and families, which in turn will provide money to support our student endeavors.

On Thursday, December 20th, the **8th grade band, orchestra** and **chorus** along with some members of our **7th grade band** performed a **holiday concert at the Andrew Muller Primary School**. This was a great opportunity for our middle school performers, as well as the audience filled with potential musicians, and shone

a light on the excellence of our students at the North Country Road Middle School. We hope that the presentation inspires some to participate in performance based music instruction.

In the month of December the **NCRMS student government** sponsored a **bus driver appreciation breakfast** and a **luncheon for our custodial, buildings and grounds staff** to recognize their daily efforts with our students, staff, and school grounds. Student government representatives presented thank you cards for each group, which included personalized poems. One group of students performed a song that they had written especially for our bus drivers!

On January 15th, students attended the Unity Day Event. Unity Day is an annual event offered to middle and high school students as a way to unite young people from across Suffolk County and address the issues they confront each day. This year's theme was SOUL: Sending Out Universal Love, Mind, Body and Soul/Mental Health and Wellness.

Congratulations to all that participated on January 17th, in our **2019 National Geographic Geography Bee!!!** Approximately 25 students participated in the Geography Bee, a contest that includes questions about our state, our nation, and as we move deeper into the questions, the nations beyond our borders. The questions address geography, geology, and of course the political and economic systems that exist around the world. Our champion this year is **Chris Barton (grade 7)**, who had a tough final round against our runner up **Michael Drago (grade 6)**, and **Sophia Wylie (grade 7)** placed third. A special thank you to **Mrs. Jacquie Sanatore** for her leadership in reference to this endeavor.

Congratulations to our November and December character coupon winners, **(grade 6) Adrian Tamayo and Vincent Marino, (grade 7) Madison Adler and Mary Duffy, and (grade 8) Krystal Aaron and Angelina Danchalski**. Students were given some tangible rewards for their acts of kindness and compassion from local vendors and merchants.

Members of **Mrs. Spaccaforno's class** worked with **Newsday's Kidsday** to report on a number of special events during the past month:

One of our Kidsday news team was invited to experience the Broadway hit "**The Illusionists – Magic of the Holidays**", and wrote a review about the show. This show was action-packed, fun and funny, interactive, and very intriguing. As far as what the magicians were doing, it was truly amazing!

Kidsday invited our next group of reporters to review on **Candytopia**, a pop up museum that has sculptures, paintings and more, all made out of candy. This museum in Manhattan reminds many of the Chocolate Factory from the Willy Wonka story. While the students were in the museum, they met **Kidzbop**, a musical group of teens that performed at the museum. Both their review and the interview are available at www.newsday.com/lifestyle/family/kidsday.

Five members of our **Kidsday** reporters visited the NHL **New York Rangers** practice facility in Westchester to interview **Brett Howden** about his experiences playing with the Rangers, on and off the ice. Students learned a great deal about his contributions to the team, and were also invited to watch a practice session!

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,
Christopher Herrschaft
Christopher Herrschaft

Sincerely,
Christopher Cherouvis
Christopher Cherouvis

MCC:mff
Enc.