

NORTH COUNTRY ROAD MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Nicole Farley, Dean of Students

January 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope that everyone had an opportunity to enjoy the Winter Recess, spending time with friends and family, getting some rest and crossing items off the “to do” list that seems to grow beyond a fair pace. We are excited to get started in our classrooms and beyond, back to the routine of student engagement and learning. We remain dedicated to safety protocols and monitor state and federal correspondence that shape our environment, and look forward to positive change that moves toward a more healthy school community.

A collective debt of gratitude to all that participated in this year’s **Winter Concert series** during the month of December! It was great to enjoy a live performance from all of our middle school music groups. Some of the programs included adjustments to the setting due to COVID protocols, and the student resilience overshadowed the changes to make our concert series a much needed movement to finding ways to enjoy some of our traditions. Many thanks to our music teachers (**Ms. Desiderio, Ms. Dimitriou, Ms. Kirby, and Mr. Matura**) for their dedication to the process!

A special thank you to our PTO for their hard work and dedication in reference to the creation of our **local food pantry** that is located here in our middle school. The **NCRMS National Junior Honor Society** has initiated a food drive that will continue during the month of January. Students can drop non perishable food items into a collection box that is located in each period one classroom. The pantry is quite impressive and will serve to support local families in need.

All eighth-grade students are encouraged to attend the Miller Place High School **Incoming 9th Grade Orientation** on Thursday, January 27th, at 7:00 p.m. at the Miller Place High School. Students and parents will have the opportunity to meet some of the members of the MPHS staff and learn more about MPHS programs and expectations.

Important January Dates:

Monday, January 17 th :	Martin Luther King Jr Day, School Closed
Wednesday, January 26 th :	Board of Ed Meeting 8:00PM
Thursday, January 27 th :	9 th Grade Parent Orientation 7PM MPHS
Friday, January 28 th :	2nd Marking Period Ends NCRMS

Listed below are some of our NCRMS student accomplishments:

Congratulations to December’s character coupon winners, (**grade 6**) **Dylan Carvajal**, (**grade 7**) **James Rodriguez**, and (**grade 8**) **Michael Giovingo**. Students were given some tangible rewards from local vendors and merchants for their acts of kindness and revealing strong character without prompt.

A special congratulations to Team ExtraOrdinary, a team of young people who participate each year in the **Polar Plunge**, an event that raises money for **Special Olympics** by getting sponsored to jump in the frigid waters of the Long Island Sound in late November. Given the craziness of the past year, it is heart-warming to see these kids do something this incredible. This adventure started in 2013 when Miller Place resident **Robert Fitton** started plunging with his cousin and one friend in honor of his brother Thomas who was born with Down Syndrome, and from there, year after year, he has added friends to join the team. Robert's sister **Mary** (now 14 years old) joined as a co-captain when she was old enough to plunge. The team is composed entirely of young people and since inception, they have raised over \$100,000 that has benefitted over 250 Special Olympians and has grown on a yearly basis. This year they raised approximately \$13,000! On Thursday, December 2, the Town of Brookhaven, led by our local Councilwoman Jane Bonner and Town Supervisor Ed Romaine, recognized the outstanding efforts of the Team and proclaimed November 20, 2021 as Team "Extra-Ordinary" Day in the Town of Brookhaven. Shout out to **Brooke Borkowski (grade 8)** who remains an active member of the team along with many students from our High School.

Our **student government** worked with a local Miller Place organization **Respect Kindness** to participate in this year's **toy drive**. Faculty, staff, and students purchased toys and placed them in the collection boxes that were located in our main office. It was great to see the spirit of giving during the holiday season in action!

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. 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, please 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
Christine Mangiamele

Sincerely,
Nicole Farley
Nicole Farley