

NORTH COUNTRY ROAD MIDDLE SCHOOL

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March 2021

Dear Parents and/or Guardians:

The **beginning of March** brings thoughts of springtime and warmer weather, but as we have seen in the past, the month of March can be unpredictable. We hope to leave the frigid conditions behind that have impacted our community during this winter.

Thank you for your responses to the **Student Health Questionnaire** for each week. It is a requirement to continue to fill out this online document each week as we move forward. Please contact us if you have any questions in reference to the process.

Thank you to all that participated in our **4th annual STEAM week** that took place in February. Despite the challenges that we faced due to COVID protocols and a new virtual approach, the experiences provided were enriching and thought provoking to say the least! We are already planning next year's event. Please let us know if you have an idea that we can add to the fun!

The **scheduling** process for the 2021 - 2022 school year will begin this month. Our **sixth grade students** have been informed about 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 will provide a Google sheet this week for you to select the language of study with your child during the first week of March. **The deadline to select a language is Friday, March 19th.**

We are also "rolling over" the **music course selection** that your child is currently enrolled in (Chorus, Orchestra, Band, or General Music). 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 move into Spring, 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.

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

With spring fast approaching we all need to maintain our cooperative efforts surrounding the policies set forth in the **District Code of Conduct**, specifically those relating to school dress. Please be sure to remind your child about appropriate school dress and be aware of what he or she is wearing to school each day.

Important March Dates:

Friday, March 12 th	Progress Reports Posted
Wednesday, March 24 th	BOE Meeting @ 8:00 pm
Monday, March 29 th – Friday, March 2 nd	Spring Recess SCHOOL CLOSED

Character coupon winners for the month of February were: (8th Grade) **Chase MacCauley**, (7th Grade) **Aiden Fiorelli**, and (6th Grade) **Jesse Mott**. Students were giving 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.

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

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Sincerely,

Christine Mangiamele

Christine Mangiamele

Sincerely,

Nicole Farley

Nicole Farley

MCC:jlmm

Enc.