

# NORTH COUNTRY ROAD MIDDLE SCHOOL

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March 2018

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.

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 NYS 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:**

Tuesday, April 2 <sup>nd</sup> & Wednesday, April 3 <sup>rd</sup> :	English Language Arts (grades 6 - 8)
Wednesday, May 1 <sup>st</sup> & Thursday, May 2 <sup>nd</sup> :	Mathematics (grades 6 - 8)
Thursday, May 30 <sup>th</sup> :	Grade 8 Science Performance Test
Monday, June 3 <sup>rd</sup> :	Grade 8 Science Written
Wednesday, June 19 <sup>th</sup> :	Algebra I Regents (12:00 p.m.)
Thursday, June 20 <sup>th</sup> :	Earth Science Regents (12:00 p.m.)

The **scheduling** process for the 2019 - 2020 school year is already underway. In cooperation with the 9<sup>th</sup> grade parent orientation (held at the Miller Place High School), our current 8<sup>th</sup> grade students participated in a **high school scheduling orientation** on Tuesday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, 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** met 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.

Planning for the **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Moving-Up Ceremony and Dance** is underway! Parent volunteers are needed to assist with preparations for the dance. Stay tune for the date of our first **parent volunteer meeting** to discuss tentative plans. The dance will take place on Friday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 7 p.m., and the ceremony will be on Wednesday, June 19<sup>th</sup>, also beginning at 7 p.m. Students are not expected to rent tuxedos or purchase “prom” type gowns for **either event**. It is a fun and informal event held to celebrate the completion of middle school.

It’s that time of year to order your copy of the **2018-2019 NCRMS YEARBOOK!** The ordering window begins on Thursday, March 7<sup>th</sup> and ends on Thursday, March 14<sup>th</sup>. The book is priced at \$35 and can be purchased with a check or money order made out to the Miller Place School District. Forms are available in the main office or on the NCRMS website.

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 8 <sup>th</sup>	Progress Reports Posted Grade 7 & 8 Dance 6:30-8:30 pm @ NCRMS Cafeteria
Wednesday, March 13 <sup>th</sup>	BOE Budget Workshop #2 @ MPHS
Friday, March 15 <sup>th</sup>	PTO Teen Rec & Club Illumination Grade 6, 7 – 9 pm @ NCRMS Gym
March 18 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup>	NCRMS Book Fair
Monday, March 25 <sup>th</sup>	NCRMS Spring Sports Begin
Wednesday, March 27 <sup>th</sup>	BOE Meeting 8:00 pm @ MPHS, Budget Workshop #3
Friday, March 29 <sup>th</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Marking Period Ends @ NCRM

**Listed below are some of our Middle School events and achievements:**

In honor of Dr. Seuss's birthday the **National Education Association's *Read Across America*** has grown into a nationwide initiative that promotes reading every day of the year. Our Reading teacher Mrs. Jenn Cavaliere and a number of our reading students visited the Andrew Muller Primary School on Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, to read to a number of classes and share their love for reading.

Congratulations to the **NCRMS National Junior Honor Society** for the results of their **blood drive** in cooperation with the Long Island Blood Services, A Division of New York Blood Center. The drive was able to obtain 37 pints of blood to help save lives. On behalf of the hospitals and patients that are counting on us, the Long Island Blood Services would like to extend a thank you to those that took the time and effort to be a part of the drive.

Congratulations to **Chris Barton (Grade 7)**, a student that was chosen from a pool of more than 50,000 national applicants to participate in **MathCON**, a prestigious academic competition hosted by Concept Schools in Chicago, IL. To qualify, Chris along with 100 of his classmates recently participated in an initial online math competition on February 11<sup>th</sup>. The students took level-specific tests of forty multiple-choice questions within forty minutes. Chris scored in the category that granted him an invitation to the University of Chicago to participate in the National Math Con.

**Character coupon winners** for the month of February were: (8th Grade) **Angelina Danchalski**, (7th Grade) **Grace Sierra**, and (6th Grade) **Luke Moloney**. Students were giving some tangible rewards for their acts of kindness and compassion from local vendors and merchants.

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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,

*Christopher Herrschaft*

Christopher Herrschaft

Sincerely,

*Christopher Cherouvis*

Christopher Cherouvis

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