

NORTH COUNTRY ROAD MIDDLE SCHOOL
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May 2019

Dear Parents and/or Guardians:

We are in **the final stretch of the 2018-2019 school year**. May and June are extremely important months in terms of preparation and administration for final exams and/or projects that complete the year's academic experience. It is also a time for culminating celebrations in the Arts as we prepare for our Spring concert series. **We have made some adjustments necessary to provide a more comfortable experience for our school community.**

On May 9th, the 7th Grade Chorus will perform for our school community starting at 7 p.m. Our 8th Grade Chorus will perform on the same evening with their performance beginning at 8 p.m. The Chorus audience will exit the auditorium prior to the Grade 8 audience arrival. We ask for your cooperation so that both performances can be enjoyed in a comfortable setting. On May 14th, the 6th Grade Band will join the 6th Grade Orchestra beginning at 7:30 p.m. The entire audience is asked to stay for the entire concert, with no audience transition needed. Please call our main office if you have questions pertaining to the changes.

The administration of the NYS assessments in Common Core English Language Arts is behind us and the **Mathematics Assessments** will be administered on **Wednesday, May 1st and Thursday, May 2nd**. For the **NYS assessment in Mathematics**, the problems involve a focus upon fluency (speed and accuracy with simple calculations) and the ability to answer multi-step questions that are rooted in the real world. This includes deciding which formulas and tools to use. As stated in previous correspondence, there has been a change in reference to the administration of the Mathematics assessment for grade 8. **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 on Wednesday, June 19th.**

In the area of **Science**, 8th grade students will take the NYS Science Assessment or the NYS Regents in Earth Science. The **grade 8 Science** assessment consists of a performance portion (May 30th) and a more traditional exam (June 3rd). The **Earth Science Regents** has the same format, with the written portion scheduled for **June 20th**, and the practical portion will take place on **June 11th**.

It is important that all students are in attendance during the testing days. There will be normal arrival and dismissal times each day, with a block testing schedule placed at the beginning of the day followed by an abbreviated schedule of our nine period day.

State Assessment Dates:

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
Tuesday, June 11 th :	Earth Science Practical
Wednesday, June 19 th :	Algebra I Regents (12:00 p.m.)
Thursday, June 20 th :	Earth Science Regents (12:00 p.m.)

As mentioned in last month's newsletter, our **National Junior Honor Society** has asked for design ideas for this year's button that will be given to every senior to wear on graduation day! Advisors have handed out the template during the lunch periods so students have an idea of the size of the button. This annual tradition maintains a connection to our High School graduates as they walk across the stage to accept their diploma. Many seniors have expressed their gratitude and tell us that they still have their pins as part of their graduation memorabilia. If your child has yet to submit a design, there is still time, as the deadline for the button design is **Friday, May 3rd**.

The Jr. Panther Players of NCRMS are proud to announce their upcoming productions of *Beauty and the Beast Jr.* Our run of three performances begin **Friday, May 31st at 7:00p.m., Saturday, June 1st at 2:00 p.m. and we will close with our final performance on Saturday, June 1st at 5:00pm.** Tickets will be on sale shortly. We hope to see you at the production!

Planning for the **8th Grade Moving-Up Ceremony and Dance** is underway! Parent volunteers are needed to assist with preparations for the dance. This year's theme is a "Night at the Oscars". The dance parent volunteer meetings are as follows: **Tuesday, May 7th, Tuesday, May 21st, Tuesday, June 11th, Wednesday, June 12th, and Thursday, June 13th from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. and Friday, June 14th at 2:45 p.m.** All meetings will take place in the NCRMS Cafeteria and all parents are encouraged to volunteer. For further information on volunteering, please contact one of our Student Government advisor, Mrs. Farley at nfarley@millerplace.k12.ny.us or Ms. Healy at mahealy@millerplace.k12.ny.us. The dance will take place on **Friday, June 14th, at 7 p.m.** in the NCRMS Cafeteria and the ceremony will be on Monday, **June 24th, at 7 p.m.** in the NCRMS Gymnasium. 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.

Important Dates in May:

Thursday, May 2 nd :	MPHS/NCRMS Jazz Night 7:30 pm @ MPHS Auditorium
Tuesday, May 7 th :	Budget Hearing 8:00 pm @ MPHS
Wednesday, May 8 th :	Grade 6 Chorus Concert 7:30 pm @ MPHS Auditorium
Thursday, May 9 th :	Grade 7 Chorus Concert 7 pm @ MPHS Auditorium Grade 8 Chorus Concert 8 pm @ MPHS Auditorium
Saturday, May 11 th :	NCRMS Art Show
Monday, May 13 th :	Grade 7 & 8 Orchestra Concert 7:30 pm @ MPHS Auditorium
Tuesday, May 14 th :	Grade 6 Orchestra & Grade 6 Band 7:30 pm @ MPHS Auditorium
Wednesday, May 15 th :	Grade 7 & 8 Band Concert 7:30 pm @ MPHS Auditorium
Friday, May 17 th :	Progress Reports #4 Posted NCRMS
Tuesday, May 21 st :	Budget Vote 6 am – 9 pm @ NCRMS
May 23 rd – May 28 th :	School Closed – Memorial Day
Friday, May 31 st :	NCRMS Drama @ 7:00 pm @ MPHS Auditorium

Listed below are some of our NCRMS student accomplishments/events:

This year's **6th grade field trip** took place at ***The Adventure Park at Long Island***. This is an "aerial forest rope park", consisting of over 140 platforms installed in the trees and connected by various configurations of cable, wood, and rope to form bridges and zip lines. There are ten trails in total, for ages seven to adult, with challenge levels suitable for every age and skill level- from beginner to expert. Each person selects the trail(s) they want and climbs at their own pace. All students will receive a thorough briefing before climbing and wear safety harness clipped to safety cables throughout their time in the trees. Students developed team building skills, endurance, and confidence during their time in the park.

The National Junior Honor Society sponsored a food drive to help families in our community and across Long Island. The drive began on Monday, March 25th, and continued through Friday, April 12th. All items donated will be sent to Long Island Cares, Inc. /The Harry Chapin Food Bank. Please visit www.licares.org to find out more about this wonderful organization. Congratulations to **Mrs. Hibbard's** period one class for collecting the most food for donation!

The **NCRMS Student Government** partnered with the Down Syndrome Advocacy Foundation to recognize **Down Syndrome Awareness day** (March 21st) throughout our middle school. The day opened with a video that served to educate students about Down Syndrome and disability awareness, which set the tone for the day. Students were asked to wear blue and yellow, the colors selected to display unity in the initiative, and crazy socks, another symbol of recognition that one can wear to honor the day's intention. Bracelets were sold during lunch periods to raise money to donate to the DSAF (Down Syndrome Advocacy Foundation) that will help increase awareness and help provide the same opportunities in their schools, communities, and work that we take for granted. Special thanks to Student Government President **Angelina Mancini (grade 8)**, supported by advisors **Nicole Farley and Mara Healy**, for all of their hard work to bring this event to our school.

Authors Unlimited is taking place at St. Joseph's College on April 13th. Students have the opportunity to apply to be a teen volunteer and help out at the event. They get to interact with the various authors as they conduct breakout sessions for young writers interested in entering into the field. Students have to apply at <http://authorsunlimited.org/> and then have a teacher write a letter of recommendation. For the first time since Mrs. Farrell, NCRMS Librarian, has been promoting this program, a student was chosen as a volunteer! 8th grader, **Brandy Moeller** has been selected to participate from the North Country Road Middle School.

On April 5th we sent a team of 6th grade students and a combined 7th/8th grade team to participate in the **North Shore Invitational Math Tournament**. **Chris Barton** (grade 7) took first place in the individual competition out of a total of 210 students with over 36 schools participating. The Combined 7/8th grade team took second place in the competition. Congratulation to all.

Character coupon winners for the month of March were: **Ben Elgut** (8th Grade), **Markella Tzeremes** (7th Grade), and **Kayden Aaron** (6th Grade). 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.

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

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