

NORTH COUNTRY ROAD MIDDLE SCHOOL

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October 2021

Dear Parents and/or Guardians,

As we move into a “routine” for this school year, we continue to adjust to the ever-changing dynamics of our daily practice, coupling COVID protocols with attempts to find our traditions. Please find some time each day to talk with your child about school during a somewhat confusing time. Middle school is a time and place where your child will grow in many different ways. Always feel free to call or email your child's teachers or our guidance counselors with any concerns that you might have. I appreciate your concerns in reference to anything and everything pertaining to our practice.

An important element of daily conversations is to continue to educate our students in reference to the **Dignity For All Students Act**, legislation designed to provide support in order to maintain a safe and healthy school climate. Our middle school provides an approach to combat peer mistreatment through education, providing programs and lessons as part of our Character Education program, as well as our daily learning experiences. You can always refer to our district's Code of Conduct, which is available online, or speak to our building administration for more specific information about The Dignity Act or any matter that pertains to health and safety.

The **New York State Assessments** in English and Math for grades 6-8 have been tentatively scheduled for the spring of 2021. We will continue to deliver instruction that prepares our students for the exams on a daily basis. If you are interested in learning more about the process, information can be found within some helpful websites in reference to the state exams (www.nysed.gov and www.engageny.org), or you can always contact the building for information.

Assessment Schedule

Grade 6 – 8 English Language Arts	Tuesday, March 29 th & Wednesday, March 30 th , 2022
Grade 6 – 8 Mathematics	Tuesday, April 26 th & Wednesday, April 27 th , 2022
Grade 8 Science Performance exam	Wednesday, June 1, 2022
Grade 8 Science Written exam	Monday, June 6, 2022
Algebra I NYS Regents	Thursday, June 16 th (8 a.m.)
Earth Science NYS Regents	Friday, June 17 th (12 p.m.)

Some of our students in grade 8 will challenge the **New York State Assessment** in Science, while others will take the Earth Science Regents Exam during Final's Week. Our 8th grade students that have been selected to take Algebra I are not responsible for the NYS Grade 8 Math Assessment due to their necessary attention to the Regents exam. All of these exams are important determinants of academic achievement and indicate when academic intervention is necessary.

We will begin the **Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA™) Measures of Academic Progress® (MAP®)** formative assessments with the Fall Session taking place during the week of October 25th. Each assessment takes approximately 45-60 minutes, and the turnaround time to evaluate results is minimal. There is no test preparation that is required at home or at school prior to the test. Students will participate in a winter and spring administration session in English Language Arts and Math as well. NWEA™ has no correlation to or association with any “high stakes” testing. The data will be reviewed by your child’s classroom teacher and building administration only to inform instruction and speak to individual progress in the classroom.

We have discussed expectations for the 2021-2022 school year during the month of September during cafeteria discussions and in class. This discourse included a review of the district’s **Code of Conduct**, which speaks to our practice and policies (i.e. Attendance, Eligibility, and Dress Code). If you have not reviewed this information with your child, please refer to the NCRMS student agenda handbook where this information is outlined. We ask that you have a conversation with your child about our dress code,

In order to ensure that our student body is prepared in the case of an emergency, we have begun a series of **fire evacuation drills**. Students are instructed to follow the instruction of the adult (teacher, administrator, nurse, aide, etc.) in order to leave the building safely. We have also scheduled the first of a series of **lockdown drills**, which have been designed in cooperation with our Suffolk County Police Department Resource Officer.

All of our students participate in the **First Student Bus Safety program**, which includes a series of drills using the different methods of evacuation from the bus, as well as some strategies that will emphasize safe practices. Students are reminded about the significance of safety and appropriate behavior on the school bus. Building administration has emphasized the fact that our adopted slogan, “Not in our school” applies to our daily bus ride as well.

Our preparation and planning is underway for this year’s **grade 8 Washington D.C. trip**. We have been working with Curriculum Travel of America, an extremely reputable organization that we have worked with for over 15 years to make some pertinent decisions. After conversation about the trip for this year, and the ever-changing world that we encounter, we have decided to provide a survey to the Parents and Guardians of our 8th grade students in reference to the trip. The dates for this year’s trip have been reserved for Wednesday, May 11th – Friday, May 13th. The cost of this trip when we went in the Fall of 2019 was just under \$600 per student. Due to the rising costs of so many elements of the trip (i.e. transportation, lodging, etc.), this year’s cost is going to be approximately \$690 per student. Before moving forward with an informational meeting, we have decided to ask you to fill out the survey provided via the link below that includes pertinent information about interest in the trip with provided factors to measure our community’s thoughts about moving forward. **We will postpone our October 12th parent information meeting** so that we can gain some information from the survey prior to the next phase of the discussion.

Parents of grade 8 students: Please answer the questions in the survey link below by Friday, October 15th.

<https://forms.gle/4Lugu8YZR1q4hkeF7>

Our schedule of **extra-curricular club offerings** is off and running. A listing of these clubs can be found in the student agenda. Students should listen to the morning announcements for meeting dates and times. We also have posted a weekly update to our club schedules and events on our **NCR FYI page**. The link can be found on the Middle School portion of our website under “NCRMS announcements”. Clubs will take place in person with some providing a virtual setting as we navigate our current conditions.

Our **Miller Place Spirit Week** is approaching!!! Our Student government has selected a series of theme days for students to participate to show their school spirit. We will enjoy the following themes each day:

Monday, October 18 – **Pajama Day**

Tuesday, October 19 – **Character Day** (students select to dress up as their favorite character from a book or movie)

Wednesday, October 20 – **Wacky Wednesday** (no fashion sense should be applied!)

Thursday, October 21 – **Throwback Thursday** (pick a decade and dress the part!)

Friday, October 22 – **Spirit Day** (wear your favorite MP jersey or school color!)

Our **Homecoming Parade** will take place on Saturday, October 23rd, beginning at 1:30 p.m. by the MP Firehouse on the south side of 25A. The Football game vs. Mt. Sinai will begin at 2:30 p.m.

Important October Dates:

Friday, October 8th	7 th & 8 th Grade Dance 6 pm - 8pm
Monday, October 11th	Columbus Day SCHOOL CLOSED
Monday, October 18th- Friday, October 22nd	District Spirit Week
Wednesday, October 20th	NJHS Induction Ceremony 7pm
Wednesday, October 27th	Board of Education Meeting 8:30PM at MPHS

NCRMS has been registered for the **A+ School Rewards program**, a partnership between schools and Stop & Shop supermarkets. Our middle school will have the opportunity to earn cash through Stop & Shop A+ School Rewards Program. All you have to do is Log on to www.stopandshop.com/aplus to register online or dial 1-877-275-2758 to register your card over the phone. After you register your card, each shopping trip at Stop & Shop using your Stop & Shop Card earns CASH for our school! Each month, the amount of CASH awarded will be updated on the Stop & Shop website. You can track the amount of points you earn for our school by checking your grocery receipt and online when you create an account at www.stopandshop.com. Our school will receive a check at the end of the program. Remember, even if you registered your card last year, you must re-register this year for our school to receive credit. Please be sure to register your card to benefit the North Country Road Middle School using ID # 07826.

Listed below are some of NCRMS accomplishments:

Congratulations to September’s character coupon winners, Johnny Adler (grade 6), Allison Creighton (grade 7), and AJ Galfano (grade 8). Students were given rewards for their acts of kindness and compassion from local vendors and merchants.

Thank you for taking the time to read all of the important information in this month's newsletter. Please be sure to write me about some individual accomplishments so we can recognize our student body. We are looking forward to seeing you at our many middle school events. On behalf of the faculty and staff at the NCRMS, best wishes for a productive and positive school year.

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://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
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Sincerely,
Christine Mangiamele
Christine Mangiamele

Sincerely,
Nicole Farley
Nicole Farley