

NORTH COUNTRY ROAD MIDDLE SCHOOL

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October 2018

Dear Parents and/or Guardians,

With the new school year underway, many of us are back to a more structured routine that keeps us quite busy. As we return to this rigorous schedule, please try to find some time each day to talk with your child about school. 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 the main office with any concerns that you might have.

Another important element of this year's program is to continue the discussion with 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. I am proud to state that our middle school has always maintained a strong 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.

This year students in grades 6 through 8 will participate in the **New York State Assessments** in English and Math to determine levels of academic achievement. The exam has been adjusted so that it will take place over two days, reducing the testing administration by one day. Some helpful websites in reference information about the state exams are www.nysed.gov and www.engageny.org, which contain information in reference to our shift to the Common Core Standards.

Assessment Schedule

Grade 6 – 8 English Language Arts	Tuesday, April 2 & Wednesday April 3, 2019
Grade 6 – 8 Mathematics	Wednesday, May 1 & Thursday, May 2, 2019
Grade 8 Science Performance exam	Thursday, May 30, 2019
Grade 8 Science Written exam	Monday, June 3, 2019

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, will take the Common Core Regents Exam and are not responsible for the NYS Common Core Assessment for grade 8 Mathematics. All of these exams are important determinants of academic achievement and indicate when academic intervention is necessary.

Our middle school schedule is structured using a common philosophy called “**teaming.**” This year every 7th grade student is on a team (red or blue) with a grouping of teachers in the core subjects of English, Math, Science, and Social Studies that is common to students. Teachers share common time to discuss lesson planning and individual student needs. In the 6th grade, there are two teams with whole classes moving together for their core subjects. In the seventh grade, team members do not move together, but will have the same teachers. Our 8th grade model has been adjusted to be more like our high school setting, where it may be possible that there is a blending of teachers from different teams. The lines of communication remain open and opportunities for meetings with a student’s teachers is still available upon request.

We have met with all of the students to discuss expectations for the 2018-2019 school year during our **September orientations** on the first day of school. This discussion included a review of the district's Code of Conduct, which includes the Attendance and Eligibility policies. If you have not reviewed this information with your child, please refer to the NCRMS student agenda handbook where this information is outlined.

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. Our middle school will also practice our **lockdown procedure** in the coming weeks, which has been designed in cooperation with our Suffolk County Police Department Resource Officer.

All of our students participated in the **First Student Bus Safety program**, which included 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.

You should have already received, reviewed, signed, and returned the following important documents to school with your child. If not, please call the main office and request the information: **Census Verification Form/Computer Use Permission Form and School-Wide Discipline Contract.**

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.

We will continue our **3:35 bus** for students who attend the **clubs/extracurricular activities** on a daily basis. Students will be supervised after the extracurricular activity ends until the bus arrives for departure. Our **4:30 p.m. bus run**, which is intended for, but not limited to athletics will also continue on a daily basis.

Important October Dates:

October 8 th	Columbus Day SCHOOLS CLOSED
October 9 th – 11 th	NCRMS Book Fair
October 9 th – 12 th	Spirit Week
October 12 th	NCRMS Grade 7 & 8 Dance 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
October 13 th	Homecoming Parade 1:30 p.m. Homecoming Game 2:30 p.m. @ MPHS
October 17 th	NCRMS National Junior Honor Society Induction, 7:00 p.m. @ NCRMS
October 24 th	Board of Ed Meeting, 8:00 p.m. @ MPHS
October 24 th – 26 th	NCRMS Grade 8 Washington, DC Trip

Please be aware of the **extra-curricular clubs and activities** that are offered at the Middle School. 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 our NCRMS page within the district website. For example, our **Student Government** is off to a great start, and is still accepting members if you are interested. Please remember that students must have their own transportation to the morning events (i.e. Wiffle ball, Badminton, and a.m. extra help)

We are in the final stages of the preparation for our **annual 8th grade trip to Washington, D.C.**, which will take place from Wednesday, October 24th – Friday, October 26th. We will meet with the students prior to the trip to ensure that all students are prepared for departure, as well as those who will be staying on campus for instruction. **All luggage for the trip needs to be dropped off in the middle school cafeteria on Tuesday, October 23rd between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m.** In order to ensure the safety of our students and faculty and to be in compliance with the Miller Place School District Policy and Code of Conduct, all luggage is subject to a search by an administrator of the school district. **Please remember to complete the procedure in reference to the dispensing of medication while on the trip as well.** The form must be signed by a parent and a physician, and should be returned to our health office with the medications that will be administered by Wednesday, October 17th.

Listed below are some of NCRMS accomplishments:

There are 69 grade 8 students that have met the scholarship criteria to challenge the application for the **National Junior Honor Society** by earning a cumulative average of 93%. Congratulations in reference to this portion of the process and best of luck as you move to complete your application! We will include the names of our inductees on a later date.

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.

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 www.cancellations.com on the Internet 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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