

NORTH COUNTRY ROAD MIDDLE SCHOOL

191 North Country Road
Miller Place, New York 11764
(631) 474-2710
Fax (631) 474-5178

Marianne F. Cartisano, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools
Seth A. Lipshie, Deputy Superintendent
Susan G. Hodun, Assistant Superintendent
Sandra Wojnowski, Executive Director for Educational Services

Matthew C. Clark, Principal
Christopher Herrschaft, Assistant Principal
Christopher Cherouvis, Dean of Students

August 2018

Dear Grade 7 and 8 Parents and/or Guardians:

I hope this letter finds you enjoying the last few weeks of summer with family and friends. As we approach September, our thoughts turn from vacation activities to an action plan for a successful school year. Our **Head Custodian Russell Rasch** and his staff have been working hard in order to prepare the building for student arrival. Building administration has been working with our office staff during the summer months to prepare student schedules, evaluate and maintain solid programs, and cultivate new initiatives that are designed to support our students. Despite the absence of our student body, our campus has been busy with projects that are easier to complete while school is not in session. Needless to say, we are all looking forward to having your children back in our hallways, eager to explore what awaits them in our middle school!

The summer months provide time to make some changes to our existing physical attributes to better serve our school community. We continue to make adjustments to our **Library Media Center** that was renovated last year, supporting our Maker Space initiative designed to provide opportunities for the exploration of solving problems in collaborative fashion. We will also provide opportunities to explore concept of **Mindfulness**, blending time dedicated to develop our student's ability to be fully present and aware in the moment, and less overwhelmed by potential adversity during the academic day and beyond.

Enclosed in this mailing you will find very important information for you and your child. Although all of this information may seem overwhelming, **please take the time to read through everything very carefully as some of the information must be returned to school.**

Another resource that our district provides is **our school website** (www.millerplace.k12.ny.us), which will be helpful throughout the year for items like our monthly newsletter, special announcements, and other important information. For example, if you are in need of any forms from our school nurse, you will be able to click on the NCRMS Health Office "Quick Links" and download all the necessary forms for the upcoming school year.

The **7th grade student orientation will be held on Wednesday, August 22nd** and the **8th grade student orientation will be held on Thursday, August 23rd**. The event for both grade levels will begin in the gymnasium with administration providing some welcoming commentary about the new school year. Students will meet in the gymnasium at 9:00 a.m. for orientation information and will then be permitted to tour the building and become acquainted with their lockers until 11:00 a.m. Building administration and our guidance counselors will be present to assist both days of activities; however, our teaching staff will not be present. Our faculty and staff will also be available in the halls on the first day of school to help students.

Supplies: Our school supply lists for each instructional team have been posted for your review. Please refer to your child's schedule to determine their teachers for specific teams/classes. **It is important to note that students may have a mixed team in grade 8.** There may be some additional requests at the beginning of the year, but this list is an excellent starting point. Organization is an important skill that children need to develop as part of the middle school transition. The recommended supplies are designed to help develop organizational skills for each class or team.

Class Schedule: Our school community will continue to use the school management system SchoolTool. It is likely that you already have an account that will provide access to significant information throughout the year. **You will need the parent portal to access your child's schedule, progress reports and report cards.** **The district will send you a message via our Ed Connect system that will inform you in reference to when our schedule window will be open.** Class periods are forty-two minutes in length with three minutes provided for passing. Each day begins with attendance and morning announcements during first period. Please let us know if you have difficulty accessing your child's SchoolTool information.

There has been a change made to the courses offered in our grade seven wheel classes, a series of four ten week classes. We continue to offer Art and Health, but have replaced our ELA and Math Labs with two new courses. Explorations in Literature will continue to support our students in the content area of English Language Arts, and Project Based Learning will provide students an opportunity to select a topic of their choice to research and present to their classmates. We are very excited about the new opportunities for students to discover and own the learning process.

NCRMS Class Time Schedule	
Period 1	7:40 - 8:25 a.m.
Period 2	8:28 - 9:10 a.m.
Period 3	9:13 - 9:55 a.m.
Period 4	9:58 - 10:40 a.m.
Period 5	10:43 - 11:25 a.m.
Period 6	11:28 - 12:10 p.m.
Period 7	12:13 - 12:55 p.m.
Period 8	12:58 - 1:40 p.m.
Period 9	1:43 - 2:25 p.m.

Reading The Schedule: When you look at the schedule, you will see that each period (1 - 9) is listed just to the left of your teacher's name for each class. Each ten-week (quarter) and twenty-week (semester) course is listed on your schedule. Please be aware of the A day/B day schedule. Please refer to the district calendar (posted on the district website) if there is a question in reference to whether it is an A day or a B day. We will also make a daily announcement via WNCR. Read your schedule carefully and let our district office (474-2700) know if there are any changes in address or other personal information.

Schedule Problems: If there is an inquiry in reference to your child's schedule, please call our main office during summer hours (Mon - Thu, 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.) so that we can make any necessary changes. Please understand that teacher changes cannot be accommodated. Some examples of adjustments that will be addressed are: a schedule is missing a course, a student is scheduled for the wrong course, or more than one course was placed in the same period on the same day. **It is important to note that students may have a mixed team in grade 8, which is a more aligned model with the high school format.**

The N.Y.S. Education Department has mandated schools to provide **Academic Intervention Services (AIS)** to students believed to be in jeopardy of not succeeding on N.Y.S. Assessments. Recommendations for AIS services are based upon your child's standardized testing results, grades, and teacher recommendations. In grade 7, AIS services will be provided to your child during the ten week "wheel" (i.e. Health, Art, Explorations in Literature, Project Based Learning). AIS placement for Math and English Language Arts for grade 8 will take place in lieu of Art or Health, and is dependent upon the flexibility of the schedule at each grade level.

Lockers: The locker number and combination will be listed on your schedule. Remember these important rules about your locker:

- 1. Do not share your combination with anyone.**
- 2. Do not trade your locker with anyone.**
- 3. Do not mark or put any permanent additions in your locker.**

Student Conduct: We have prepared information for you about the *Miller Place School District Code of Conduct* and our School-Wide Discipline Plan, which will be found in the student handbook that is handed out during the first day of school. The last page of the handbook serves as a contract that we ask both students and their parent/guardian to sign. **Please spend some time with your child reading through the handbook on the evening of the first day of school and return the signed page on the following day.** We have also included information in reference to our attendance and eligibility policies.

Textbooks: Each year students are issued textbooks and calculators. Each resource is given a number, and its condition is recorded by our teachers so that in June the proper accounting can be made. Any lost or damaged books or calculators beyond the normal use are the responsibility of the students. The value of the resources borrowed by each student is well over \$100, so it is important that students take care of these very important items.

Important Dates:

Wednesday, August 29 th	BOE Meeting 8:00 p.m. MPHS
Tuesday, September 4 th :	First Day of School
Wednesday, September 5 th :	NCRMS Fall Sports Begin NCRMS Grades 7 & 8 Sports Parent Meeting 6:00 p.m. MPHS Auditorium
Thursday, September 6 th :	NCRMS NJHS Info Meeting 6:00 p.m. NCRMS Cafe
September 10 th & September 11	SCHOOL CLOSED Rosh Hashanah
Thursday, September 13 th :	NO STUDENT ATTENDANCE Superintendent's Conference Day NCRMS Grade 6 Open House 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Friday, September 14 th :	NCRMS Picture Day
Wednesday, September 19 th :	SCHOOL CLOSED Yom Kippur
Monday, September 24 th :	NCRMS Grades 7 & 8 Open House 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Wednesday, September 26 th :	BOE Meeting 8:00 p.m. MPHS

Please adhere to the following **drop-off and pick-up procedures** at the North Country Road Middle School. The north roadway to NCRMS is closed to all traffic, except for buses in the morning from 7:25 a.m. to 7:35 a.m. The flashing red lights on a school bus mean it is illegal to pass a school bus in the school area during this time. It is also illegal to pass a school bus anywhere while the red lights are flashing. This is an important safety issue for the school buses, students, and staff. In order to help avoid potentially dangerous traffic situations please encourage your child to take the bus to school. If you must provide transportation for morning or afternoon extracurricular activities, **please drop-off and pick-up in the parking lot on the Laddie A. Decker Sound Beach School driveway.** Thank you for your cooperation in this important matter. During school hours, all visitors will enter the building using our new main entrance on the north side of the building which is located in close proximity to our Main Office and our Nurse's Office.

Health Office:

All **7th graders** are mandated by NYS law to submit a physical examination report. In addition, as of September 1, 2016, they must provide proof of receiving the meningococcal vaccine. Forms were handed out in the classroom to all students in June and can also be downloaded on the school website under the health office tab.

Buses for Extracurricular Activities: Our after school bus runs will be available for departure at 3:35 p.m. on Monday - Friday of each week, and we will continue to have a 4:30 p.m. bus run for athletics or other extended supervised activities.

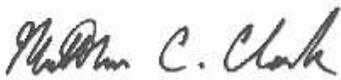
Miller Place PTO TEEN REC: Our Teen Recreation program is very popular with our middle school students. However, volunteers are always needed in order to run the program efficiently. Please sign-up and get involved in everything that the PTO has to offer.

Communication: Between home and school is most important for a successful school year. We will continue to provide a monthly newsletter, monthly menu with announcements, and information as necessary. Please check our **NCR FYI page**, which provides an outline of the week's events for your review. A link to the page can be found on the opening page of our middle school website. Our Ed-Connect System allows us to send a phone message and/or e-mail to the community for announcements that deserve special or immediate attention. Students should read bulletin boards, be attentive to the morning WNCR TV broadcast, and talk to teachers and parents about school events. If you ever have any questions about anything at school, please call the NCRMS office at 474-2710 for assistance. We will do our best to answer any and all questions. Thank you for your time and patience digesting all of this information.

In an effort to become more environmentally friendly, our school district has decided to offer school progress reports and report cards electronically using our student management system, SchoolTool. An announcement will be recorded when the reports are ready for viewing using our Ed-Connect System, which will reach your home by phone and/or e-mail. Our newsletters will only be available online as well using our school district website (www.millerplace.k12.ny.us). **Please note, the school calendar will only be available electronically. It will be available by accessing the district's website.**

The summer months have been very productive, but we miss the hustle and bustle of students preparing for the challenges of tomorrow. We are all looking forward to the excitement that each school year brings, and the positive growth of each individual that a new year of experience provides. On behalf of the faculty and staff, best wishes and much success during the 2018-2019 school year. We look forward to working with you during these important middle school years, which continue to build a foundation for the future!

Sincerely,



Matthew C. Clark
Principal

MCC:mff