



Milford Middle School

33 Osgood Road, Milford, NH 03055

603-673-5221

COLLEEN M. HACKETT
Assistant Principal

ANTHONY P. DeMARCO
Principal

EMILY MacDONALD
School Counselor

ROSE O'NEILL-VERNEY
Curriculum Coordinator

WENDY VAUPEL
School Counselor

March 1, 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians of Fifth Grade Students,

I would like to welcome you to Milford Middle School. It was a pleasure meeting many of you for the first time at our Nature's Classroom presentation last week and it was great to see some familiar faces returning. Our goal each year is to make the transition for students and parents to their new school easy. Most students will experience a smooth transition moving from an elementary self-contained classroom to a two or three person teaching team as they are ready developmentally for the guided independence that the middle school offers.

Before the start of the year a new master schedule is created which not only includes changes in teaching assignments and courses but also includes the placement of all students onto academic teams and into classes. We receive input both academically and socially regarding students as well as any additional information that we should be aware of during the placement process. In a collaborative effort involving classroom teachers, guidance counselors, special education teachers, and administration, we develop a schedule that is educationally appropriate for each student. Teams and classes are balanced and consistent with the goals and mission of the school, the district and community.

In sixth grade, students are placed into classes much as they are at the elementary school. Students are scheduled into all of their core subject area classes and a variety of Unified Arts classes. Teachers at the middle school teach only one or two core subjects at a time, much like high school teachers. When we place students into specific classes we also factor in possible developmental and social issues to help us determine classroom and team placements. We use this information to help us to be proactive and eliminate any potential issues in placement so that we can develop an appropriate learning environment.

We work diligently to create appropriate learning environments for all the children and appreciate the confidence that you have in us to accomplish this difficult task. However if you are aware of any extraordinary factors concerning your child's placement, especially that which the teachers and staff may not be aware of, please put that information in writing to me **no later than Monday, April 16, 2018.** Please be specific when describing your child's unique situation or the type of learning environment that you feel may best suit your child. If the information conflicts with information we have received from the educational staff we will decide the best course of action based upon what would be best for the student educationally. Please do not ask for your child to be grouped with friends as each child has unique learning styles and educational needs. We cannot guarantee that requests will be honored. *I ask that you not request a specific team or teacher for your child as we cannot honor such a request due to the many factors involved in placing students.*

Students will receive a letter prior to the start of the school year informing them of their team assignments. Once the summer letter is received and placement has been determined changes rarely occur due to the complexity of the process involved.

My staff and I look forward to creating the most appropriate learning environment for your child at Milford Middle School.

Sincerely,

Tony DeMarco
Principal
ademarco@milfordk12.org