

It is hard to believe that we are entering the second half of the school year. This is a time to prepare for the end of the year transition to the next grade level for sixth and seventh grade students and for eighth grade students it is a time to prepare for and to start thinking about high school course requests.

Our faculty and staff are assisting students to help them develop the skills necessary to be successful. A variety of strategies have been utilized throughout the building in reading and writing to help students to develop and strength these skills. Students have been using writing programs to assist them in organizing their ideas to present a well written paragraph with supporting details. They have been practicing self and peer editing techniques which help to enforce good writing skills.

Reading strategies are used in all curriculum and subject areas to help students gain a better understanding of non-fiction informational texts. Special emphasis is placed on getting students to distinguish essential parts in their reading. We continue to all be teachers of reading.

Parents often ask me what they can do to help their child be successful. Your child's education can be thought of as a triangle between School, Parents and Student at each tip. All three must work together for students to be successful. Each of us has an important part to play. Here are a few simple things that parents can do at home to encourage success;

1. Create a good study space for your child at home away from distractions. While it may be hard for our generation to understand some students do well with music playing in the background.
2. Provide a consistent study time. Give them some time directly after school to unwind, but then provide them with a consistent time to do homework nightly. An example might be every night after dinner from 6:30PM to 7:30PM. If they don't have any homework, ask them to read a book for pleasure during this time. The important thing is to keep the time consistent.
3. Utilize the teacher and team websites and your child's Agenda Book to check for homework assignments and projects.
4. Communicate with your child's teachers. Provide the teachers with your email address and phone number so they can contact you and you in turn can contact them.
5. Encourage your child to do their best, always. A little praise goes a long way! The responsibility of producing quality work falls both at school and at home.

I would like to remind you that the Milford School District's Deliberative Session is Thursday, February 8, 2018 at the Milford High School cafeteria. The session begins at 7:00PM. It is during this time that discussion concerning the proposed school budget and warrant articles takes place. Amendments to the warrant articles and the proposed school budget are proposed and voted on during this session. The March 13<sup>th</sup> town voting will be held here at the middle school from 6:30AM to 8:00PM in the gymnasium. Please use the Gym Lobby entrance at the rear of the school for voting. Students do not have school on that day.

The weather continues to be frigid, please make sure that your child is dressed appropriately for the colder weather. If there is a problem with appropriate winter clothing due to a hardship or other issues, please call the school and we will try to assist in procuring appropriate winter dress. All inquiries are always confidential.

Thank you all for the continued support that you provide to the students, staff and administration here at the middle school. Together, we can make it happen!

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