

# Principal's Newsletter

Milford Middle School  
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## Principal's Message

September always seems to go so fast in a middle school! We are entering October already. I want to welcome families back to our school community. We look forward to working with you so that we can all provide the highest levels of education possible for our students. We have had an exciting start to the new year. We recently finished our renovations to the school's infrastructure and HVAC systems. The school colors are now proudly on display throughout the building thanks to a much needed refreshing. Students and parents have commented on how nice the building looks and feels. We are grateful to the community for supporting the warrant article two years ago that allowed the renovations to take place. I hope that by this point in time that your child has settled in to the routine of their classes and feel comfortable. The transition to the middle school from the elementary schools can be difficult for some students and very easy for others. Each student is different and will handle the transition differently. We are here to support students through the transition. Our school counselors are available and our teachers are experienced in helping to ease students into the middle school. For most of the incoming students, this is the first time that they are changing classes for all of their courses. The identified best practice for middle schools is to place students on teaching teams. Teaching teams help students still feel and develop a connection to adults much as they had in the self-contained classrooms at the elementary school while preparing them for the high school and beyond. Instead of having one teacher

that they are with all day, students are on a team of two, three, or four teachers. The team is responsible for a smaller number of students and meet on a regular basis to discuss student concerns. The teachers discuss concerns and work together to strategize what works for students in each of their classes to provide students with consistency. This consistency extends to the teams expectations as well. Teams plan together to make sure they are not overloading students, yet provide students with a guided independence that allows them opportunity to grow. Time management can be a problem for middle schoolers just as it is for adults. It is often difficult to balance school with all the other activities that are available to students. The teams provide time for students to help them organize themselves and make the best use of their time. Our PTO provides every student with an "Agenda Book" for students to write down their assignments. Every team has a team web page where assignments are listed out for the week. Teams will often give students the opportunity to begin assignments in class so that they can ask questions and get help with the assignments. Providing your child with a quiet space at home at a consistent time helps them to understand the importance of planned study time. On days when they don't have homework, having them use that time to read a pleasure book keeps the routine in place for them.

We encourage the students to ask questions on topics they may not fully understand. One of our goals is to

help students become comfortable and develop the skill of advocating for themselves. This is one of the reasons that we provide our students with their own access to PowerSchool and to their grades. PowerSchool can be great tool to help your child take ownership and responsibility for their education. It provides students with the ability to check their progress throughout the marking term in between report cards. However even with all of the positives that PowerSchool has to offer, it can also have a negative effect if students begin to check it too often and begin to put undue pressure on themselves. Like all good things, PowerSchool is best in moderation. Weekly check-ins are great, daily check-ins are not. We want students to take ownership of their education in a healthy way. Sincerely,

Tony DeMarco  
Principal

October 2018

### Important Dates

- Oct. 5 NO SCHOOL  
Teacher Workshop Day
- Oct. 8 NO SCHOOL  
Columbus Day
- Oct. 9 Music Boosters—  
6:30 pm
- Oct. 17 PTO Mtg. 7 PM
- Oct. 15-19 6th Grade  
Camp
- Oct 24 Sport Parent Info  
Night—7:00
- Oct 30 Picture Retake  
Day



# News from the Assistant Principal

## General Information for Parents:

### MMS Front Driveway is a FIRE ZONE!

Parents are reminded that the entire front of the middle school is marked as a FIRE ZONE. Please do not park or wait in your car in the afternoon to pick up your child in this area. In the afternoon, there are plenty of empty parking spaces in the front of the building that face the main entrance that are available for parents to park while waiting for their students to come out of the school.



### Breakfast Available Every Morning:

Breakfast is available every morning beginning at 7:15 AM. Students that wish to purchase breakfast should come to the main entrance at 7:15 AM so that they may be let into the building for breakfast. The breakfast program is also under the Free & Reduced program Breakfast Cost is \$1.50.

Everyday: Breakfast Sandwich, Cereal, Bagel, Parfait, Smoothies

Tuesday and Thursday: Donut or Muffin



### Arrival Time in the Morning:

Students should arrive at the school no earlier than 7:15 AM. Our staff is outside for morning recess at that time. Students on the property prior to 7:15 AM are unsupervised. During inclement weather, morning recess is moved indoors. Students come into the building at 7:30 AM.



# News from the Curriculum Coordinator

My name is Beth Gibney and I am the new Curriculum Coordinator at the Milford Middle School. My name may sound familiar to some; as I was the Curriculum Coordinator of the Elementary Schools for a number of years prior and I have known some of your children since their first experiences in school in Kindergarten. I am very excited to be part of this team and to help move with the students through their next developmental stage to middle school, as I transition to this new position. My previous experience here in the Milford School District, both as Elementary Curriculum Coordinator and as District Wide Reading Specialist, has allowed me to see all aspects of curriculum and I believe will help us hone our transition programs from the elementary level to middle and then middle to high school level seamlessly. I look forward to working on the administrative team, with the teachers, students and community members to help provide the best middle school experience for your children, while helping them to become lifelong learners.

## News from 8th Grade

Teams Liberty and Freedom have gotten off to a great start as our 8<sup>th</sup> graders enter their last year at MMS. This year, eighth grade students have much to look forward to, including, a trip to the Boott Cotton Mill at Lowell National Historical Park and the year-end trip to Canobie Lake Park. In the classroom, students will be challenged with a curriculum designed to prepare them for high school and a life of active citizenship. This fall we'll be faced with solving algebraic equations, exploring the geography of the United States and looking at our colonial past, writing personal narratives, finding water on Zork, and dealing with a Raven that won't go away!

Below are some tips for students to help them be successful this year

*Assignments:* Please check the team website for daily work

*PowerSchool:* Check PSchool on a regular basis. Parents and students can call the office if you don't have login information.

*Absences:* If a student misses school, please have them check with their teachers for missing work

*Reading Book:* Remember a silent reading book each day.

*Supplies:* Each class has required supplies, students should double check to make sure they come to class prepared.

Students should advocate for themselves: Each teacher has an email address. If students have a question, or problem with assignments, or grades, they should email us

We're excited about this year and look forward to working with the eighth graders.

## Sixth Grade Heads to Nature's Classroom

On October 15, sixth grade students will head to a week-long educational experience at Nature's Classroom in Charlton, MA. Nature's Classroom allows students to learn firsthand about our natural environment plus explore various academic subjects. Emphasis is placed on learning together and developing community awareness.

The equipment list is posted on the middle school website. Also if your child has a change in medications, you can print out a new form and bring it when you drop off your child.

Students should be dropped off at Lorden's Plaza between 7:30 and 7:45 am. The coach buses will be departing promptly at 8 am for the week's adventure. Buses will return on Friday, October 19 to the Milford Middle School at 2:45 p.m. to be picked up by parents.

Final reminders and tips concerning the equipment list, medications, and drop off /pick up will be sent home with the students and will also be posted on the middle school website.



## Student Services

Just a reminder that MMS takes part in the End 68 program. End 68 is a community based and funded program that provides students with a bag of food each Friday that will be able to nourish the student over the weekend. If this is a service you believe your student would benefit from, please contact Student Services.

## Picture Re-Take Day

Picture Re-take Day has been Scheduled for October 30th. Any student who was absent on picture day in September, will need to have their picture taken in order to get their ID badge. Picture packets are available in the main office.

If you are not satisfied with your school picture and want a retake, you will need to bring the picture packet with you to the camera.

Middle School ID cards will be given to students. Lanyards will be available to students that do not have one. If students have their own, be sure it is a breakaway. In the tradition of the high school, we are asking that students wear their ID cards to school every day. Students can use their ID cards for the purchase of lunch and for school events.



## Nurse's Corner

**It has been busy** in the Nurse's office - we have seen colds, a few fevers, sore throats and gastrointestinal complaints. Please keep your child at home if your child has a fever more than 100 degrees, vomiting, or diarrhea and is symptom free for 24 hours. This helps prevent the spread of illnesses in school and the community.

**Vaccines-** All 7th Grades students are required by the State of New Hampshire to have a Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria & Pertussis) before entering the 7th grade. Please with your child's PCP if this has been given. I will be mailing notices to parents of students who are not compliant. This vaccine must be given in order for students to remain in school.

**The Annual Health Fair** will be held on November 1st during the school day for all students to attend. The goal is to promote healthy lifestyles - activity, healthy eating, and safety.

**Water Bottles** - Please be sure to send your child in with a water bottle everyday. Proper hydration is very important for everyone. Students attentiveness and learning improves with proper water intake.

**Nutrition** - We still see many students who come to the Health Office complaining about stomach aches and headaches. Many times it's because they have not eaten breakfast. Please send a healthy snack with your child everyday. Good nutrition is vital for the body and mind.

Please feel free to call me with any questions or concerns.

## Student Council



Student Council had a great turnout for their first meeting of the 2018-2019 school year on Tuesday September 18th. Student Council voted 8th grade students Ella Forrence to be our President and Mad-die Bergen to be our Vice President. Alexis Morales was vote to be the 6th grade representative. We are still in need of a 7th grade representative!

We are currently partnering with MTA, and NHS to organize a food drive to support SHARE, as they are in great need for donations. The food drive at MMS will run until October 4th. Please send your students in with donations if you have them!

Student Council is also looking into organizing a "Socktoberfest" event. More details to come.

Any student interested in participation in Student Council is invited to join at any time during the school year- all MMS students are welcomed! Meeting are held every Tuesday 7:10-7:30 in Ms. Barry's classroom- room 407.

Ms Barry and Mrs. MacDonald are the club advisors again this year and will be working with the students for new and creative ideas! We are looking forward to an exciting year!

## Revised Student Dress Code at Milford Middle School

Milford Middle School has revised its Student Dress Code this year. Current research indicates that dress codes in schools around the country have been unintentionally causing girls embarrassment or causing them to miss valuable class time addressing these issues in the office. We have revised our dress code to reflect the current research and to be more gender neutral and developmentally appropriate.

This year's Student Handbook includes the following revisions: 1) all shirts are allowed as long as they have straps and the straps can be any width, 2) leggings are now allowed, 3) scarves are now allowed and 4) the length of shorts or skirts should be modest and provide appropriate covering. The "Finger-Tip" rule that shorts and skirts should be as long as the tip of your fingers, when your arms are down at your side, will no longer be applied.

The changes that we have made to our dress code this year were intended to make our dress code more gender neutral. We want our students to wear clothing that is modest, comfortable and non-offensive. Students are expected to dress appropriately for a school environment and feel comfortable at school, so they are in the best frame of mind to learn. Our Dress Code will continue to evolve to ensure that all our students are treated equally. If students or parents have any questions regarding these revisions, please feel free to contact the office.

## Fuel Up To Play 60



Fuel Up to Play 60 is excited for the new year. Mr White is taking over the lead advisor roll this year. We have big plans this year for the kids. Last June we were able to install a recess equipment shed for all grade levels to use. This fall we stocked the shed with basketballs, frisbees, jump ropes, soccer balls, Gaga balls, foot-balls, and flags. We are excited for this opportunity for the kids to have more options for activities during their recreational times.

We are also continuing on with our mural we are looking to hang up in the cafe. We have also begun planning our annual fall dance. This year it is planned for Friday Nov. 2nd. We will have more details on ticket prices later in October.

The student leaders have talked about our goals this year and they want to bring more activities out for the students to participate in. Last spring we did a Gaga tournament and this year we are coming up with new ideas for different activities we could hold tournaments or challenges for the student body.

With a great group of leaders and new blood in the club from our 6th graders we look forward to making Milford a more active and health school and community!





## PTO News

The PTO would like to thank all the parents, volunteers, kids, and faculty for a **very successful Book Fair**.

We were able to offer:

- Over \$500 in books to the classrooms that teachers put on their wish list.
- \$15 coupons to 15 kids who could not afford books (They were so excited to come in and shop!)
- \$500 to the MMS Library to get new books

Again, we would like to say thank you to everyone for such a successful book fair.

### Opt-Out fundraiser happening now!

If you would rather not have fundraising tasks throughout the year but still want to support the MMS PTO, fill out the Opt-Out fundraiser form! These were sent home with kids the week of September 17th, but more are available if needed.

Thank you for your continued support of the Milford Middle School PTO.



## Upcoming Athletic Events

- October 3 -12** Sign Ups for Winter Sports
- Saturday, October 13th** - Milford Volleyball Jamboree
- Saturday, October 13th** - League XC Meet at Nashua South
- October 19-27** - Fall Sports Play-offs
- Saturday, October 20th** - Keene Field Hockey Jamboree
- Saturday, October 20th** - State XC Meet at Londonderry High School.
- Wednesday, October 24th** - Winter Sport Parent Meetings - Cafe at 7pm
- Thursday, October 25th** - ImPact Testing - 2:45 pm - MMS Library
- Saturday, October 27th** - Keene Soccer Jamboree
- Monday, October 29th** - Cheer/Spirit Try-Outs Begin
- Tuesday, October 30th** - ImPact Testing - 2:45 pm - MMS Library
- Monday, November 5th** - Basketball Try-Outs Begin
- Tuesday, November 13th** - Wrestling Begins
- Thursday, January 3rd** - Alpine Ski Begins



Please note the new email address, for our Athletic Director: [don.gutterson@milfordk12.org](mailto:don.gutterson@milfordk12.org)