



Principal's Message

March 2019

Important Dates

- March 8 and 9—School Play
7PM
- March 12 No School—
Tch Workshop/Voting Day
- Mar 12—Music Boosters Mtg
at Town Library
- March 13—PTO Meeting
- March 13—MHS Incoming
9th Grade Parent Info Night
- March 14—Spring Sports
Parent Mtg—7 PM
- March 15—Hoops for Heart
- March 15—Trimester 2 Ends
- March 18—Trimester 3 Starts
- March 19-20—Book Fair
- March 21—Report Cards



We are coming to the close of another trimester at the middle school which brings with it a variety of programming changes and begins our preparation for the upcoming school year.

Students at all grade levels are beginning to get anxious for the change in weather, the summer and anticipation of their upcoming grade change. By this point the majority of sixth grade students are very comfortable with the transition to the middle school and are comfortable with the academic demands and social interactions that the independence of this grade level gives to them.

Students have begun to show us their independence and are more accountable to themselves for work and social interactions.

Our seventh and eighth grade students are preparing for the next step in their school careers. Seventh grade students continue to work on developing their social interactions and begin to rely more heavily on peers for support much to the chagrin of their parents. Meanwhile eighth grade students will be beginning the process of choosing their classes for the high school. High school guidance counselors will be visiting with the 8th grade students this week to discuss the choices available to the students to help them prepare for the transition. The Incoming 9th Grade Parent Information Night will be held on Wednesday, March 13th at the high school.

Students are continuing to develop their independence as they move through the middle school to help prepare them for the high school. Each grade level increases the independent nature of the work and of the student's responsibility to help them transition successfully to the next phase in their education. Some students may take a little longer to develop their independence and that is okay too. Our goal is to assist students and to carefully guide them in becoming more independent and responsible for their education.

Beginning at the middle school, students are given access to their grades and attendance through PowerSchool to help them develop ownership and responsibility for their education.

Students are told by their teachers and by administration that they should be checking their grades weekly to make sure grades are current. Grading and grade input is explained to students at the beginning of the year. Teachers are asked to use the following guidelines for entering grades; One (1) week for entering most grades including assignments turned in late and two (2) weeks for tests, projects, or reports. However some assignments may require more time to correct and enter.

Working collaboratively with parents is an important step to reinforce with students that home and school are jointly engaged in helping to guide them to continually develop their independence. This helps them prepare for what lies ahead of them educationally and in their careers. We appreciate the support that we receive from the school community to help the students make good choices and be successful and achieve to their greatest potential.

The March 12th elections will be held here at the middle school from 6:00AM to 8:00PM in the gymnasium. In the best interest of continued security and safety for our students, school will not be in session that day as it is scheduled to be a Teacher Professional Development Workshop Day.

Please remember that the entrance to the voting polls is through the gymnasium lobby.

Parking spaces will be delineated for staff and voters. Voters should park towards the gymnasium lobby entrance at the rear of the building for easier access to the polls. Police officers will be directing traffic in the parking lot to assist with the traffic flow.

Thank you,

Tony DeMarco
tony.demarco@milfordk12.org

News from Colleen Hackett, Assistant Principal

Now that we are coming to the end of Trimester 2, it is important to continue to monitor your child's grades in Powerschool. If you notice any concerns during Trimester 3, please don't hesitate to contact your child's teachers. In the event that your child is absent from school for one day, your child can request missing work directly from his/her teacher. If your child is absent from school for more than one day, you can contact the office directly for a missing work request. Missing work can then be picked up directly from the office. As a reminder, Homework Assistance is available to any student Monday through Thursday from 2:15-3:15.



If your child stays after school for homework help, or any other reason, please make sure your child has arrangements to get home once he/she is done. Students are not allowed to wander the building after school. Only students attending activities supervised by staff are allowed in the building after school. Students always have access to the office phone if a call needs to be made. Your child's cell phone needs to be off during the school day to prevent disruptions, but cell phones can be checked for messages once the bell rings at 2:10. If you need to get a message to your child during the school day, please call the main office. Thank you!

News from Beth Gibney, Curriculum Coordinator

Eye On Curriculum

There are lots of exciting reading activities happening at MMS this winter!

Dr. Seuss Birthday - Read Across America

On February 22nd, everyone at MMS participated in a school-wide celebration of Dr. Seuss's birthday with the National Education Association's "Read Across America". The day included:



Drop Everything and Read (DEAR): For 20 minutes at the start of the school day MMS teachers & students silently read a book of their choice. MMS has been hosting this day for 11 years and it was a very fun and special day for students and staff.

Read Aloud: For the first 5-10 minutes of each class, every teacher read aloud to students. Some of the books teachers read include:

The Story of the Little Mole Who Went in Search of WhoDunit
Horton Hatches the Egg
Sir Cumference & the Sword in the Cone
Zin! Zin! Zin! A Violin
The Dot and the Line: a romance in lower mathematics



Also on February 22nd, 6th grade students participated in a 90-minute Read-A-Thon. Students read independent reading books from school or home & some even brought in pillows to make themselves comfortable!! Money collected from pledges will benefit the Nature's Classroom trip that 6th grade students take each fall. All MMS students can participate in the NH Fisher Cats Reading Challenge. Students who read 5 books between October and March will earn 2 free tickets to a spring 2019 Fisher Cats game! They also get to join the Fisher Cats on the field during the National Anthem. MMS could also win up to \$5000 if we are one of the schools with the highest percentage of participants.

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Student of the Month—January and February



Congratulations to January Students of the Month

Theme for this month: Support Others Who May Need Help

Grade 6:

Team DaVinci—Brianna Frank

Team Edison—Wes Voelker

Team Newton—Jayden Corron

Grade 7:

Team Explorers—Logan Woods

Team Navigators—Julianna DaLuz

Grade 8:

Team Liberty—Cylenna DeLaCruz

Team Freedom—Ernest Sullivan

Staff:

Mr. Gutterson

Mrs. Shea

Congratulations to February Students of the Month

Theme for this month: Be Courteous and Polite

Grade 6:

Team DaVinci—Gabe Santaniello

Team Edison—Izzy Hindle

Team Newton—Ryan Lees

Grade 8:

Team Liberty—Emma Wells

Team Freedom—Connor Cook

Grade 7:

Team Explorers—Madison Manning

Team Navigators—Logan Aldrich

Staff:

Ms. Dine

Mrs. Julian



Placement Request Information

Placement request for the 2019-2020 school year for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students must be submitted in writing to the administration no later than Friday, April 19, 2019.

We ask that you not request a specific team or teacher for your child but if you are aware of any extraordinary factors concerning your child's placement, which the teachers and staff may not be aware of, please put that information in writing.

Please be specific when describing your child's unique situation or the type of learning environment that you feel may best suit your child.



News from Student Services

Greetings from Student Services! Hoping everyone had a relaxing and fulfilling vacation!

On March 5, all 8th grade students participated in a tour of the Milford High School Career and Technical Education Center. This tour gave students the opportunity to see and hear about many of the programs and classes they have available at the high school. The counselors from the high school will be visiting MMS on March 8th to discuss the high school and course selection. Course selection sheets will be due to Mrs. Vaupel/Mrs. MacDonald by late March. These sheets must be reviewed and signed by parent/guardian before being returned. The High School will hold an information night for parents of incoming 9th grade students on Wednesday, March 13 at 6:30 pm in the High School Cafeteria. Our 8th grade students will also have an opportunity to participate in some Career Exploration activities during the week prior to April vacation. More information to follow!

Respect.

Next week, MMS will participate in Respect Week, an initiative sponsored by the NH Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. Students will participate in various activities, including conversations in classrooms about respect and respectful behavior and defining respect to create a "Chain of Respect" in the cafeteria.

SNACKS

The Student Services office continues our initiative to provide snacks for students during the school day. Every classroom is provided with a snack bin that contains healthy snacks that students can access in homeroom. This program is funded completely through donations. Any contributions from families would be welcome! Some suggestions for donations include pretzels, Welch's fruit snacks, NutriGrain bars, Cheez-Its and Goldfish (all individual size packages.)

Please let us know if you have any concerns about your student that we may help with!

Tip of the month: Have a family dinner! Have your child assist with planning, shopping and cooking the meal. It is a great family bonding activity and one that helps students gain valuable skills! See below for a healthy, easy recipe!



<https://ifoodreal.com/ground-chicken-tacos/>

Grade 8 Parent Information Forum

The parents of 8th grade students at Milford Middle School are invited to attend a one-hour information session at Milford High School on Wednesday, March 13, 2019 at 6:30 pm in the MHS Cafeteria.



Items to be discussed include: Academic and career/technical course offerings, the structure of student schedules, graduation requirements, and the course selection process for 8th graders. This presentation is for parents; 8th grade students will receive a separate presentation within the school day.

Drama Club



Attention: You are being called for jury duty as the Drama Club is gearing up for this year's play "Big Bad". Mr. Wolf is on trial for a class action lawsuit brought against him by some quirky characters he has wronged in the fairy-tale world. The two-most famous lawyers in the Enchanted Forest-the Evil Stepmother and the Fairy Godmother will clash as they bring these testimonies to life. Was Mr. Wolf born a criminal or made one? Come and enjoy the fun as you, the audience get to decide the verdict of Mr. Wolf. Your jury duty is being called on March 8th and 9th at 7 pm. Tickets are \$5 for students and \$7 for adults. You won't want to miss this funny and entertaining play.

PTO News

We hope everyone had a fun filled vacation! Upcoming this month for the PTO includes some FUNd-raising you won't want to miss!

The Book Fair will run March 19, 20, and 21st, each day from 8:20-2:00 PM.
TRIVIA NIGHT is back! Join us on March 21st for trivia night with Steve Erdody!
See our Facebook page and flyers for details.



Launching this week is Mixed Bag Designs. Get reusable bags in a color and pattern you love while supporting the MMS PTO! This FUNdraiser will continue through April. Easy ordering from a catalog or online! See our Facebook page and flyers for details. The sales website is: <http://www.mixedbagdesigns.com>

April 6th at 6:00PM is the Music Boosters and PTO fundraising Monarchs game. Tickets on sale online. MMS Chorus will be performing. Ordering information coming soon.

March is full of FUNdraising! We thank you for your continued support of the MMS PTO!!

Thank you!



Athletic News

Congratulations to the Girl's D6 Basketball Team on winning the first ever, Girls Basketball, Tri County League Championship at Milford Middle School. The team finished an undefeated league season by knocking off Gilbert H. Hood Middle School, to earn the Championship Plaque.

The Milford Spirit Team brought home a 2nd Place Finish at the Hollis/Brookline Cheer Competition on Sunday, February 10th. The Team will finish the Season at Nashua South on March 9th, with their final competition.

The Four Coed Volleyball Teams are off to a great start winning the majority of matches against Windham and Lurgio of Bedford. The team continues with 6 matches after the February Break, including World Academy and Pelham for two, and a second with Windham and Lurgio.



Spring Sports:

Sign Ups - March 4-8th - In the MMS Gym - If you are interested in Baseball, Softball, Lacrosse (Girls and Boys), Golf (Girls or Boys), and Track and Field (Girls and Boys), please be sure to sign up.

Parent Meeting - Thursday, March 14th - 7 pm in the MMS Cafe

ImPact Testing - Monday, 3-18 and Wednesday 3-20, 2:45 pm in the MMS Library.

Try-outs/Practices start Monday, March 25th - Times TBD

Golf begins on April 1st, weather permitting.

For more information, Contact Don Gutterson at don.gutterson@milfordk12.org



Hoops for Heart:

The annual Hoops for Heart Extravaganza will take place on Friday, March 15th from 2:30-4:30 pm in the MMS Gym and Cafeteria. Basketball games and activities will take place in the gym and Jump Roping, Hula Hooping and Dance Revolution Contests will take place in the Cafeteria. Please see your PE or Health Teacher for more information and permission forms. Money raised for the event will go towards the American Heart Association.

HELPSY Collection Bin: As you may have noticed, our recycling bin in the parking lot has changed. HELPSY is now collecting & recycling our donated textiles & other items.



What is HELPSY?: From the HELPSY website - www.helpsy.co : *It's hard to believe but over 85% of clothes wind up in the trash! It's the norm to recycle plastics, glass, metal and paper but sadly clothes, shoes, and accessories have long been ignored. In fact, 10% of our landfills are textiles. That's 81 pounds per person, per year. Makes zero sense to us either.*

HELPSY is a for-profit B Corp with an environmental mission to radically change the way people think about clothing recycling. We make reusing and recycling your clothes and shoes more convenient and easy than ever. Clothing reuse is a big deal. It reduces the enormous environmental burden of the second most polluting industry in the world. 95% of what we collect is reused, upcycled, or recycled.

What can go in our HELPSY bin?: In general, the bin accepts anything that you can WEAR, can SLEEP on, or DRY yourself off with, in addition to other items. Textiles can be in any condition as long as they are clean & dry.

ACCEPTED:

- Clothing
- Shoes
- Small Toys
- Belts, Ties, Scarves
- Watches, Jewelry
- Stuffed Animals
- Wallets, Purses, Backpacks
- Books
- Towels, Bedding, Linens, Rags
- Kitchen Items (utensils, pans, plastic, cups)

NOT ACCEPTED:

- Furniture
- Large Appliances
- Mattresses
- Electronics
- Scrap Metal
- Encyclopedia Sets
- Breakable Housewares or Glass
- Building Materials
- Phone Books or Magazines

Notes: Items must be bagged.

How does MMS benefit from bin donations?: HELPSY gives MMS \$.07 per pound of textiles & acceptable items placed in our bin (there is no payment for books although they are recycled or reused). Last year, that amount was \$724.28 & was used to provide scholarship funds for 6th grade environmental camp. The total amount raised by the bin since January 2013 is \$5966.21! And that is for items that would otherwise be thrown away.

We appreciate your continued support of putting your unwanted items in our bin!