

Principal's Newsletter

Milford Middle School
33 Osgood Road
Milford, NH 03035
www.milfordk12.org



Principal's Message

April 2019

It looks like Spring is finally here. The snow is melting and the weather is getting warmer...and it's raining and not snowing.

We try to be flexible when it comes to what students should wear to school. A general rule of thumb that we follow is that the clothes should be comfortable, sensible and modest. We recognize that the building does get warm during the Spring and ask students to dress appropriately for the weather. We ask that if you have questions to please refer to the Student Handbook for proper dress guidelines or call the school. We recognize that current fashion dictates appearance; however, we like to think of ourselves as a business "very" causal model of student appearance.

There are still parents that are parking in the FIRE LANE in the afternoons when picking up students after school. The fire lane is a no parking or standing zone. It runs the entire length of the front of the building. There are plenty of parking spaces in the main parking lot after school hours. Please park in a designated parking space after school and do not wait in the fire lane.

I cannot stress enough how important it is that parents follow the pick-up and drop-off guidelines to help us ensure that students are safe in the morning and in the afternoon. Parents should not be driving up the driveway by the main entrance to the building and should only be dropping off and picking up at the loop by the red barn. In the mornings the majority of the students gather in the front of the building on the sidewalk. Cars are dropping off and then driving off quickly causing concern amongst the staff on duty. Students are also being dropped off in the driveway and then crossing bus and vehicle traffic from the far side to get the front of the building. Officer Addonizio will be patrolling this area in the mornings to speak to those drivers that are not adhering to these guidelines. The students' safety is our number one concern; your assistance in this matter is greatly appreciated.

In this month's newsletter I have included information about the teaming re-configuration and the new schedule that will be implemented during the 2019-2020 school year. There are a lot of exciting changes and opportunities that this will bring to all students over the next few years. Some of the information is from the Parent Information nights that were held in March to introduce the changes to parents and some of the information is a more detailed and explains more of the rationale behind the rescheduling. I hope you enjoy reading it.

Sincerely,

Tony DeMarco
Principal
tony.demarco@milfordk12.org

Important Dates:

April 16—Liberty Field Trip

April 17—Freedom Field Trip

April 17—PTO meeting—7 pm

April 19—PTO Mixed Bags

Fundraiser Ends

April 19—Placement Letters Due

April 19—Gr 8 Career Day

Special Points of Interest

• **April 22—April 29:**

Vacation Week

• **Yearbooks are still on sale!**

**Pick up a form in
the main office.**



News from the Assistant Principal



Vaping information

Our School Resource Officer has been presenting information to our 7th and 8th grade students to help educate them about e-cigarettes and the legal and health impact it has on adolescents. He will also adjust his presentation to meet the developmental needs of 6th graders when speaking to them about this issue as well. While students are being educated about this, we encourage parents to continue to build their own awareness of this issue. Vaping is illegal for those under the age of 18. Our School Resource Officer, Officer Addonizio, often provides information on his Facebook page. You can search for Officer Addonizio's page by typing in *Milford SRO on Facebook*. *Officer Addonizio provides other information that may be of interest to parents as well.*

News from the Curriculum Coordinator

Curriculum Corner



As the snow begins to disappear and the sun is shining a little longer in the day, many students are enjoying the change in season but spending more time outside during recess and after school. Along with warmer weather comes the Fisher Cats Reading Challenge. Over 130 students have submitted their forms for the Fisher Cats Reading Challenge. The Fisher Cats Reading Challenge, presented by Velcro Companies, challenges students to read five (5) books outside of the normal curriculum during the school year. The students who complete the challenge will earn two (2) tickets to a 2019 New Hampshire Fisher Cats game at Northeast Delta Dental Stadium at a special "Reading Challenge" celebration, presented by Velcro Companies. Plus, each participant will get to play catch on the field at the game you choose to attend. Be sure to BRING YOUR OWN BALL & GLOVE to play catch on the field (Fisher Cats, 2019).

This month students in 8th grade began their transition to the high school by listening to the high school Director of Guidance, Paul Christensen, discuss the program of studies at the high school. Later that week the students submitted their course selections for the 2019 - 2020 school year as 9th graders.

Upcoming events



In efforts to expand the career exploration and career pathways opportunities for students within the district, 8th graders will be traveling to the high school to take part in a trade show of local businesses and professionals on April 18th. The Middle School will be hosting the annual Career Day exploration for 8th graders on April 19th. Numerous speakers from various professions will be coming to the school to speak with and offer interactive sessions with the 8th grade students to offer an opportunity to learn more about and hear what it takes for individuals to be successful in those careers. We are looking forward to helping students to gain a greater awareness of the choices they will be able to make to shape their futures.

NH SAS (New Hampshire State Assessment System) Schedule

The middle school will be conducting the NH SAS (New Hampshire State Assessment System) testing for each grade level during the month of May along with other schools across New Hampshire. We ask that you please make sure that your children are well rested, have a good breakfast and arrive to school on time. Please limit dismissals during the week that your child's grade is being tested. Testing is scheduled to take place between 7:45 am to 10:15 am during the test week. The following schedule is by grade level;

May 20 to May 23: Grade 8 May 24 to May 29: Grade 7 May 30 to June 3: Grade 6

The tests are made up of three (3) parts for 6th & 7th grade and four (4) parts for 8th grade which includes a Science assessment. The assessments are designed to assess how well students apply knowledge and skills in solving problems. The assessments are done on the computer much like the NWEA tests. The students take the test using the computer responding to and solving problems based upon the information provided to them.

The NH Legislature has enacted a law that prohibits schools or the state in providing student information to any third party vendors. No identifying student information, including demographic information, will be shared with anyone. Each student will be given a randomly generated ID number which the school will have access to as well as a generic demographic profile. We expect to have results from the assessment within four to six weeks of the closure of the testing window in June.

Please feel free to contact me if you should have any questions regarding this letter. I may be reached at the school during our normal hours of operation. If you would like more information, you may also go to;
<http://nh.portal.airast.org/faqs/>

Sincerely,
Tony Demarco
Principal

Student of the Month



Congratulations to March Students of the Month. The theme for March was Make Good Choices for My Behavior.

Team daVinci—Alexis Morales

Team Edison—Izzy Hindle

Team Newton—Will Bertonicini

Team Explorers—Jason Desrosiers

Team Navigators—Maura St. Onge

Team Liberty—Colby Lajoie

Team Freedom—Nevaeh Kimball

Staff : Mr. S. Erdody and Mrs. Calo



HOOPS FOR HEART



Hoops for Heart Extravaganza 2019

Milford Middle School Students and Staff participated in its' "16th Annual Hoops for Heart Extravaganza" to help raise money for the American Heart Association. 20 of our Middle School students participated in a variety of basketball and fitness activities. Players of the boys high school basketball programs, along with middle and high school staff volunteered to help score, officiate and oversee the contests, games and activities.

Students raised \$1,080.00 to benefit the AHA. In return for each pledge, students participated in a variety of basketball and various other contests. During the first hour, hot shot, one on one, milkcan, free throws, knock out, and dribble knockout, were taking place in the gym, while other students were able to shake their groove with Dance-Dance Revolution, participate in cup stacking, jump roping, and hula hooping contests in the cafeteria. A 3 on 3 Tournament took place in the gym during the second hour. Prizes were given out for the various individual competitions and trophies to the 3 on 3 winners of each division. Jay Remella was the top fundraiser, raising \$285 to help the cause, followed by Kaylani Figueroa, and David Babin who took the next top spots respectively to raise money for the event.

Refreshments were donated by the girls and boys basketball programs and by the school nurse, prizes were donated by the American Heart Association, and trophies were donated by Hudson Trophy of Nashua. Thank you to those vendors for their support.

The Milford Middle School Physical Education and Health Staff would like to thank everyone who participated in the event and gave of their time, services or donations to help make this a successful event to support the American Heart Association and its' fight to beat heart disease.

Music Department News



The music department has a busy schedule for the spring months. Congratulations to Gene Lemaire, Jacob Lydon, Kate Paradise, Jay Remella, Felicity Rysdam, and Kaylie Sullivan (band), and Vayla Torrey, Kyra Whitehead, Maddie Bergen, Camie Hopkins, Cassie Marien, Bailey Pedroza, Dario Sidilau, and Ernie Sullivan (chorus) for being selected for the 2019 Southwest District Music Festival. The festival is composed of talented music students from the region, and will be held at Bow High school on May 4th. The students will represent MMS well!

Band students grades 6-8 have been busy preparing repertoire for the MMS Spring Band Concert on May 14th (held at MMS) and the Milford District Band Festival on May 21 (held at MHS). On May 24, 8th grade band and 7th grade jazz band members, along with the 8th grade chorus will be attending the Great East Festival, held at the Amato center. There they will have the opportunity to perform for a panel of music educators, and receive a brief clinic from one of the judges. Additionally, on April 6th the chorus will be traveling to SNHU to perform the national anthem at the Manchester Monarchs game.

The music department has had some help this year from two wonderful student interns, Mr. Keith Joyal from SNHU and Ms. Allie Degraffenreid from Milford High School.

MMS Restructuring and Rescheduling 2019-2020

Next year we will be restructuring our middle school schedule to allow for smaller class sizes. The scheduling change will also put the school's schedule more in line with the high school's which will provide our students with greater opportunities to utilize programming at the high school. We will also be expanding our enrichment and intervention programming with the introduction of "Titan Time" for all grade levels. This will provide us an opportunity to enrich and intervene during the day to assist students without removing them from direct instruction in the classroom and elective activities as the programming grows. Additionally, we are expanding our Advisory program to follow the Responsive Classroom program used at Heron Pond with the introduction of Responsive Advisory; a program designed to encourage students to empathize more with their peers and addressing some of the social emotional issues that young adolescents face daily.

The schedule will also provide the school community with staff stability due to the reduction in enrollments that we are expecting over the next decade. We are not expecting any changes to the teams in grade 6, however we will be rearranging the 7th and 8th grade teams. These changes will allow us to bring back the 2-year World Language and Reading programming that we had great success with in prior years. Students will leave the middle school with a high school credit in Spanish or French. Parents of students that meet the academic criteria for the World Language classes will be receiving a letter regarding this. Students in need of interventions and strengthening of their reading skills will have the opportunity to do so as well.

The 7th and 8th grades are being reconfigured to allow for the projected enrollment decrease which is expected for the next 5 to 7 years. By reconfiguring the teams, staff members will be teaching only in their subject areas and there will be greater stability in the instruction of classes and the curriculum. We are projected to have a larger 7th grade than 8th grade for the 2019-2020 school year. To accommodate this we are creating three teams out of four teams. There will be teams made up of 7th grade students, a team made up of 8th grade students and a third team that will be made up of a combination of both grade levels (a blended team).

The blending mentioned is in how the teachers are being assigned. Seventh grade students will still follow a 7th grade schedule and 8th grade students will follow the 8th grade schedule. The students will not be scheduled together but will simply share the same teachers. They will have lunch and recess together. This will allow us to create the size of the teams based upon the numbers and not based upon the size of the grade. This helps us to keep class sizes stable as well. Students, as has been our practice, will be placed on the teams based upon their individualized needs. Additionally, students will be scheduled into their Specials by grade level. As an example, all 7th grade students will follow the same Specials schedule and will be grouped with all the 7th grade students.

Teaming in this manner will open the possibility for students being able to loop with their teachers in the upcoming years. A student may develop a great relationship with his teachers in the 7th grade and would be able to request to stay with that team of teachers for 8th grade. Likewise, a student or parent may decide the blended team didn't work for their child and request that they not loop with the team for a second year.

There has been some concerns raised on how special education services will be delivered do to this model. We are building multiple times into the schedule that will allow us to still provide services in many of the same methods that we have used in the past and with some new possibilities that have been opened due to the schedule change. There will be opportunities throughout the day to provide special education services without the need for students to miss core academic or unified arts classes and the direct instruction from those classes while still receiving the services that they need.

The schedule itself will not rotate periods so the schedule will be very easy to follow for students throughout the day. We will be changing our 3-day rotation and moving to a daily Blue / White rotation.

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The teams for next year will remain in 6th grade and will be restructured for 7th and 8th grade as mentioned above.

Grade 6:

Edison: Mrs. Julian and Mrs. Doherty

daVinci: Mrs. Erdody, Mrs. McCarroll, and Mrs. Whigham

Newton: Ms. Barry, Mrs. Danhof, and Mrs. Herron

Grade 7: Mrs. Freeman (Eng), Mr. Evans (Sci), Mrs. Dobson (SS), Mr. Borne (Math),
Mrs. Crampton (Literacy), and Ms. Caron (World Language)

Grade 7/8: Mr. Erdody (Eng), Mr. Anderson (Sci), Mrs. Connolly (SS), Mr. Pogorzelski
(Math), Mrs. Wisniewski (Literacy), and Ms. Ward (World Language)

Grade 8: Mrs. Franz (Eng), Mrs. Almeida (Sci), Dr. Frenkiewich (SS), Ms. St. George
(Math), Mrs. Crampton (Literacy), and Ms. Caron (World Language)

Letters About Literature

The NH Center for the Book has announced the state semi-finalists for the Letters About Literature writing contest. Ten eighth graders had their writing selected for judging at the next level.

Please congratulate:

Team Liberty students: Keegan Carter Hannath Stec, Maddie Bergen, Colby Lajoie

Team Freedom students: Eden Leak Mackenzie O'Connor, Auburn Rafferty, Jaidyn Mallet,
Jacob Lydon and Aden Cremonini.



8th Grade Field Trip

Lowell Field Trip: On Tuesday, April 16 and Wednesday, April 17, the 8th grade will journey to Lowell, Massachusetts, to visit the historic Boott Cotton Mill and Tsongas Industrial History Center. This year in social studies, students are exploring United States history from our nation's creation through the Civil War and our trip to Lowell National Historical Park will allow students an opportunity to experience the lives of New England textile workers in an authentic setting. Students will walkthrough a historic textile factory and nineteenth century boarding house in addition to participating in workshops that will help them understand the technology, culture, and ecological impact of this age gone by.

