



DMS Newsflash

J u n e 2 0 2 0

Dear Parents/Guardians,
It's hard to believe it, but we are rapidly approaching the end

of the 2019-20 school year. It is even harder to believe that we spent the last trimester of the year in a distance learning model. While the situation was not ideal, we've witnessed our students, parents, and staff come together to make distance learning successful. We feel very fortunate to have such a supportive school community that comes together during every circumstance to do what is best for kids. At this time, we are uncertain of exactly what the start of next school year will look like. We will regularly communicate with you with updates as they become

available. In the meantime, we want provide you with some information about some of the End-of-the-Year Activities that we will be having:

June 8th Parent Pick-Up of Student Belongings at DMS.

- 8:00-8:45 AM: Families with Last Names beginning with A - B
- 8:45 -9:30 AM: Families with Last Names beginning with C - D
- 9:30 - 10:15 AM: Families with Last Names beginning with E - G
- 10:15 - 11:00 AM: Families with Last Names beginning with H - K
- 11:00 - 12:00 PM: Families with Last Names beginning with L - M
- 12:00 -12:45 PM: Families with Last Names beginning with N- Q
- 12:45 - 1:45 PM: Families with Last Names beginning with R - S
- 1:45 - 2:30 PM: Families with Last Names beginning with T - Z

June 12th Virtual Field Day (Rain date: June 15th)

- More information and videos will be posted and shared through your child's SeeSaw Classroom and Google Classroom.

June 18th 5th Grade Send-Off at DMS (*This event is **ONLY** for 5th graders - no spectators will be allowed! Just 1 car per 5th grade student.)

- 1:00 - 1:30: Barth
- 1:40 - 2:10: Salsich
- 2:20 - 2:50: Lance
- 2:50 - 3:20: McGowan

June 19th DMS Bubble Send-Off (K-5)

- Grades K - 2: 9:00 - 9:45 AM
- Grades 3 - 5: 10:00 - 10:45 AM

Note: 6th grade transition activities are shared on pages 4-5.

•Please closely follow specific **SAFETY** guidelines that have been shared for Pick Up, 5th Grade Celebration, and Bubble Send-Off.•

Thank you for your ongoing support of Deans Mill School!
We hope you have a healthy, restful, and fun summer.



End-of-Year Activities

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PTO News

This event is only open to Grade 5 students and their families!

CELEBRATE WITH US!

DMS 5TH GRADE SEND OFF!

*Let's celebrate your success at
DMS!*

THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 2020

BARTH: 1:00 - 1:20

SALSICH: 1:30 - 1:50

LANCE: 2:00 - 2:20

MCGOWAN: 2:30 - 2:50

**COME IN YOUR CAR WITH YOUR FAMILY
TO THE DMS KISS AND DROP LOOP AT
YOUR CHILD'S HOME ROOM SCHEDULED
TIME!**

***PLEASE SEE 2ND PAGE FOR
IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO MAKE
THIS EVENT FUN & SAFE!**

WHAT TO EXPECT:

- YOU MUST STAY IN YOUR CAR AT ALL TIMES FOR SAFETY REASONS (NO OPEN HATCHBACKS PLEASE)
- THE CAR PULLS INTO THE KISS & DROP LOOP IN FRONT OF THE SCHOOL. ROLL DOWN YOUR WINDOWS, CHEER, WAVE, AND HAVE FUN!
- EACH CAR WILL STOP AT THE BANNER AND BE WELCOMED BY ADORING CHEERS FROM THE GRADE 5 TEACHERS AND PRINCIPALS.
- 5TH GRADERS WILL BE GIVEN THEIR YEARBOOKS FROM THE PTO AND SOME OTHER SPECIAL SURPRISES!

• **ADD SOME POP AND FUN TO THE EVENT:**

FEEL FREE TO BE CREATIVE AND HAVE FUN!

- DECORATE YOUR FAMILY'S CAR WITH YOUR NAME, DMS SPIRIT SAYINGS, BALLOONS, AND OTHER FESTIVE DECOR TO SHOW EVERYONE IN OUR COMMUNITY THAT YOU HAVE GRADUATED FROM DMS.
- BLOW SOME BUBBLES OUT THE WINDOW WHEN YOU ARRIVE AT THE LOOP.



Come celebrate a great year with the DMS Staff...

BUBBLE SEND OFF!

Friday, June 19, 2020

8:45 - 9:30 Grades K-2

9:45 - 10:30 Grades 3-5

Come in your car with your family to the Bus Loop (behind the school) anytime during your child's grade band!

Other Important Reminders:

- **You must stay in your car at all times for safety reasons.**
- Each car will stop at a designated location to pick up a yearbook for each DMS student. Please pop your trunk when you stop and DMS staff will put your yearbooks safely in your trunk! Thank you to the PTO for purchasing yearbooks for ALL DMS students!

Roll down your windows, cheer, wave, and have fun!

Show your DMS Spirit!

Decorate your cars and wear Green & White!

DEANS MILL SCHOOL



STONINGTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Mrs. Pamela Krause-Choquette
Guidance Counselor

Ms. Nora Selinger
Guidance Counselor

Dear Grade 5 families,

June 2020

We would like to take this opportunity, the first of many, to welcome you and your student to Stonington Middle School (SMS)! To help ease the transition and prepare both you and your student for middle school, we have created a series of online activities. We encourage your family to view these interactive powerpoints so you can familiarize yourself with SMS.

We've attached our "Welcome" PowerPoint for parents and guardians from the SMS Administration, which includes daily operations and topics like the schedule, grading, and communication. Other presentations will be sent to you in the upcoming weeks including a "Student Supports" PowerPoint, which will be delivered to students in the fall and a pre-recorded video introducing your student's new academic, survey, and support teams!

Transition activities for your student will begin with an overview of Stonington Middle School presented by the School Guidance Counselors. Topics like a typical day, school-wide activities, and our beloved stingray mascot will be introduced. Mr. Smith will also be sharing a very special video tour of SMS that you will not want your student to miss!

Additional transition activities are *tentatively* scheduled for August 2020. Please stay tuned for more information!

We are very excited to welcome the class of 2020 and we hope you are as equally excited for this transition. We look forward to working with both you and your student. It is going to be a great year!

Sincerely,

Your Grade 6 Team Teachers, SMS Administration & SMS Guidance Department



STONINGTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Mrs. Pamela Krause-Choquette
Guidance Counselor

Ms. Nora Selinger
Guidance Counselor

Important Dates:

June 1, 2020:

Welcome Powerpoint for Parents: An overview of Stonington Middle School policies and procedures. (VIDEO: [Welcome to SMS](#))

June 3, 2020:

Sixth Grade Teachers and Curriculum Powerpoint for Parents: An academic and survey course curriculum outline

Pre-recorded video introducing your student's new academic, survey, and support teams

June 10, 2020:

Student Supports Powerpoint for Parents: Information about the roles and responsibilities of school personnel

Stonington Stingrays Powerpoint for Students: Guidance will explain academic and survey courses, daily schedules, extracurricular opportunities and more exciting information about SMS

June 12, 2020:

Video tour from Mr. Smith! Enjoy your virtual visit of Stonington Middle School!



+ Medication Preparation for next school year

If medication is necessary during the next school year, the links below for the administration of medication form will need to be completed by you and your child's physician. Please bring the completed form, along with the properly labeled medication and any other medical forms, to the nurse's office at the beginning of the school year. Please be aware, only adults are allowed to transport medication to and from school.

+ Administration of Medication

[Stonington Public Schools](#)

+ Diabetes Management Plan & School Treatment Authorization

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/School-Nursing/Forms/CSDE_Diabetes_Form_DMP_June_2019.pdf?la=en

+ Asthma Action Plan and Medication Authorization

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/School-Nursing/Forms/sample_asthma_action_plan.pdf?la=en

+ Epipen Medical Authorization form

http://www.stoningtonschools.org/uploaded/Departments/Health/Emergency_Care_Plan_and_Medical_Authorization_-_April_2012.pdf

Please bring the applicable form(s) to your healthcare provider to complete prior to the upcoming school year. **A new medication form is required for each school year.**

+ Administration of Medication

Prescription and over the counter medication administered at school requires a written order from the medical provider and must be signed by the parent. Students may bring in cough drops to be kept in the nurse's office and a required note from the parent stating that student may use cough drops while in school.

+ End of year medication pick up

Medication picked up by the parent/guardian scheduled for June 8, 2020 during the time slot for your student. If unable to make this appointment, please contact the school nurse.

+ Immunizations

Pediatrician Offices are accommodating families in need of mandated physicals and vaccinations. Please do not avoid going to the pediatrician if your child is sick or needs to be vaccinated. The national vaccine tracking system has noticed a decrease in immunizations which may indicate that U.S. children and their communities face an increased risk for outbreaks of vaccine-preventable disease (taken from CDC, May 15, 2020).

+ Please call or email the school nurse for any questions that you may have.

Have a happy and healthy summer!
Thank you.

Nurse Lori

Lori M. Tavares, BSN, RN, Deans Mill School Nurse
DMSnurse@stoningtonschools.org
Phone: (860) 535-2235 x 6116



Specials Update

Our goal for the year is to keep families informed about grade level curriculum in Art, Library, 5th Grade Band, Music, and Physical Education, and how they can support their children at home.

Art

Miss Biernacki



Here are a few ideas to keep your child's creativity flowing this summer:

1. Keep a sketchbook! Any notebook will do; no fancy art supplies necessary. Keeping a sketchbook is a great way to keep drawing and creative thinking skills sharp. The best part of keeping a sketchbook is that it is completely unique to each individual. Your child can fill the pages with whatever his or her imagination dreams up. If your child starts to get frustrated with a drawing, it's easy to flip the page and try again! At the end of the summer students can flip through and see their progress. Sketchbooks are great companions on vacations, road trips, or even on visits to parks and museums.
2. Visit art museums virtually! While many museums remain closed they are making virtual exhibitions available. Here are some good ones to check out!
 - <https://www.tate.org.uk/kids> (fun games, quizzes and more!)
 - <https://www.metmuseum.org/art/online-features/metkids/> (interactive and designed specifically for kids!)
 - <https://naturalhistory.si.edu/visit/virtual-tour> (more than art)
3. Rainy day? Try drawing along with Art for Kids Hub. There are so many videos and subjects to choose from for all different ages. Visit www.artforkidshub.com.

Have an amazing summer!

Music

Mrs. McMinn



Four things you can do over the summer (or anytime!) to support your child in music

1. Sing to and with your kids: Really! Any song! This is the #1 best thing to do for your child's musical development. Regardless of your skill level, you are the best model for your child and by doing so, you are modeling an aptitude for music making. Children who have parents who say, "I can't sing" or "I don't sing" are likely going to have the same attitude for life! Singing is a part of life. We want our children to sing lullabies to their children and be able to sing "Happy Birthday" to their grandchildren. You don't have to be an Adele, Aretha Franklin, or a Luciano Pavarotti. Just sing! :)
2. Play with sound: I know some of you have already done that with the "kitchen music" activities we did in music. Fill a bin with small instruments to make a musical toy box for "playing music" at home. If you don't have any instruments you can make them! (Here are 51 DIY musical instruments <https://feltmagnet.com/crafts/Music-Instruments-for-Kids-to-Make>) Then let the kids make some noise! There is definitely a difference

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between noise and music, but many kids need to experiment with sound before they can create with sound.

3. Change the station and have a dance party: Try listening to a variety of music. This will broaden your child's taste in music and help to develop their musical ear. Try making a Pandora station or Apple Music/Spotify playlist for your kids.
4. Take advantage of the many FREE online concerts/watch parties and musical events that are currently being offered. Enjoy your summer!

5th Grade Band

If you have your instrument during the summer, definitely keep practicing! Of course you can look ahead in your band book, but you could also get creative and move outside the book! Think about songs you'd like to play and try to figure out the notes by ear. (Send any requests to Mrs. M before the end of the school year, and she can help you get started on your request songs!) Print out some staff paper (<https://www.blanksheet-music.net/>) and try to write it down. Or look up some music tutorials online-- there are some great "How to play" tutorials that step you through lots of great songs! Use the blank staff paper to write your own songs. Send any masterpieces (written or performances) to Mrs. M at lindsey.macnabrenauld@stongingtonschools.org. Most important of all, have fun playing and sharing music with others. Put on a concert for your family, or perform a virtual, socially-distanced concert for family and friends. Contact a band friend and try to play FaceTime duets. Have a wonderful summer!

Library

Mrs. Anderson-Halbert



We are so lucky to have three public libraries that serve our community! Each library is still having Summer Reading Programs running virtually and doing curbside pickup of books at this time! You can sign up for a library card online as well! They all have ways to check out ebooks and e-audio-books, too!

Please check out the Mystic-Noank library website at <https://www.mysticnoanklibrary.org/> to find out more about their summer reading and to pick up books!

The Stonington Free Library has a video about their Summer Reading Program here: <https://youtu.be/loSLafxOUGw> and a letter with more information here: <https://tinyurl.com/y9u5u9xd>. They have more information about their curbside pick up, nightly storytimes, and ebooks app at <https://www.stoningtonfreelibrary.org/>.

The Westerly Public Library has a video about their Summer Reading Programs! Here is the video for Preschool <https://youtu.be/Bm2gojcr9z0>. Elementary: <https://youtu.be/U3OxTA3hVfQ> and Middle School: <https://youtu.be/h-588UXwyU8>. They are also doing contactless pick up of make and take crafts, and Community Hero Storytimes! Check out their website for all this and more information about ebooks and contactless pick up at <https://www.westerlylibrary.org/>.

Mrs. Anderson will also continue posting read alouds over the summer and starting a virtual book club so check your child's library SeeSaw or Google Classroom for more information! And if you need help with anything over the summer, please don't hesitate to contact Mrs. Anderson at kirsten.anderson@stoningtonschools.org - she's happy to help you with book suggestions, ebook app troubleshooting, or help with summer reading!

Physical Education

Mrs. LaPalme



Need ideas to keep active over the summer?

- 1- Go for a hike! There are so many different state parks in which you may hike around the state. Make it an exploration and see what kinds of plants and animals you can find along the way.
- 2- Make an obstacle course! There are so many amazing ways to create obstacle courses in your yard. Use what you have, and change it up. Have something to toss? Put that in! Get creative on what you can do.
- 3- Is it a rainy day and you're stuck inside? Cosmic Kids Yoga, Kids Bop, Go Noodle and Get Kids Moving are great fun YouTube channels for at-home workouts!

Have fun staying active!

Congratulations to our graduates!



Draft:

Dean's Mill School Virtual PTO Meeting Minutes Date: April 29, 2020

- 1. Call to order:** The meeting was called to order by PTO President, Katie Quinlan at 6:33 p.m.
- 2. In attendance:** Principal- Jenn McCurdy, Vice Principal- Tom Bousquet, PTO President- Katie Quinlan, PTO Vice President- Jenni Adkins, PTO Treasurer- Tracy Brunelle, PTO Secretary- Jen Flynn, Tracy O'Lari, Whitney Myers, Lynn Wilkins, Melissa Checchi, Ashley Couto-Tewell, Claudia Hoddersen, Elyse Hicks, Janie Whipple, Merin Troutman, Katie Discordia, Megan La-Cour, Ryan Durham, Renee Maheau, Tracy Strelczuk, Amanda Volpe, and Tricia Lance.
- 3. Secretary's Report:** Approval of Minutes. Reviewed 1/27/20 PTO Minutes. Motion to approve by Jenni Adkins, second by Merin Troutman. All in favor unanimous.
- 4. Treasurer's Report:** As of 4/7/20, the register balance is \$58,310.14, with \$335.47 in un-cleared transactions, making a register balance of \$57,974.67 on 4/24/20. The above information can be found in the reconciliation report by Tracy Brunelle. PTO 2019-2020 Budget vs. Actual was reviewed with a total budget of \$33,350.00. Motion to approve by Jenni Adkins, second by Whitney Myers. All in favor unanimous.
- 5. New Business:**
 - Principal's Report:** Jenn McCurdy provided this update.
 - Thank you to parents and caregivers for the continued support with distance learning at home.
 - Distance Learning surveys were sent out via email to be completed. Please complete and submit.
 - School Facebook page will continue to be used as a communication source. -Virtual Spirit week was a success. More virtual events to come for the remainder of the school year.
 - Next week is Staff Appreciation week. Information to be sent out via email to engage families.
 - Student internet use on Chromebooks continues to be monitored.
 - Budget planning for school year 2020-2021 is in the works.
 - Most likely won't be returning to school this year. Plans will be executed to allow a parent or guardian to return to DMS to pick up student belongings that were left behind. More information to come.
 - Re-entry planning will be explored for next school year.
 - Be on the lookout for engagement activities (read aloud on DMS Facebook page)
 - Discussing virtual field trip options as well as a virtual Science & Tech Day, and Field Day.
 - Soccer Goal Approval:** Looking to buy new soccer goals for DMS with help from Stonington Human Services & Stonington Soccer Club. The total cost of the goals is \$3,500. Stonington Soccer Club would pay \$750, DMS would pay \$750, and Human Resources to pay the remaining \$2,000. Motion to approve \$750.00 for soccer goals by Jenni Adkins. Second by Whitney Myers. All in favor unanimous.

Free Yearbook Approval: Photos being collected electronically in addition to photos that have been already collected during the school year. Motion to approve by Whitney Myers. Second by

Merin Troutman. All in favor unanimous. Total cost estimated to be around \$4,000. All students will get a free yearbook, for this school year, due to current circumstances.

Upcoming Chair Committee Updates

Outdoor Classroom: Laura Jackson. Not present for meeting. No update was given.

Basket Raffle & Pasta Dinner: Katie Quinlan. Event has been cancelled. Donations will be held onto and possibly used for a raffle during Fall Fest 2020. Pasta dinner hopefully rescheduled for Spring 2021.

Duck Race: Tracy Brunelle. No longer collecting funds. Ocean Chamber of Commerce has postponed it until June 27th. Donations can be made directly to the chamber. We have decided to not be a part of the duck race this year. If you would still like to buy ducks for the race, you can do so by visiting the chamber's website, <http://www.oceanchamber.org/>.

Virtual Science & Tech Day: Erika Lebling. Hoping to be held virtually for the students. Budget is available for presentations & supplies, etc. More information to come.

Appreciation Days: Jenni Adkins. Movie compilation will be put together and sent to teachers. Also, \$925 left in budget to be used for teacher appreciation gifts. Tree to be purchased for outdoor classroom and dedicated to our distance learning staff and students. Motion to approve tree for outdoor classroom, Jenni Adkins. All in favor unanimous. Gift bags put together for food service workers by Becky Fowler. Motion to approve \$50 donation to be included with the gifts from DMS. All in favor unanimous.

Color Run: Jenni Adkins. Event has been cancelled. Looking forward to Color Run in Spring 2021.

Fifth Grade Party: Suzy DeLabry, Morgan Adair, Liza McBain. Party has been cancelled. Team is working on getting signatures from all 5th grade students which will be put onto T-shirts that will be given to every 5th grader.

6. Old Business

Directory: Directory has been sent home with oldest child.

Trivia Night: Katie Quinlan. 1/31/20. Profit: \$695.00.

Bruins Game: Emily McMinn & Tracy Brunelle. 2/9/20. Successful event.

Movie Night: Jen Flynn. Overall raised around \$900, between the two nights.

Science & Math Fair: Thank you Merin Troutman & team. Great night with a good turnout.

Book Fair: Thank you Heidii Redfern & Stephanie Gagnon. \$5,000 total, for both book fairs this year.

Box Tops: Jessica Lindenmayer. \$971.60 profit for Box Tops, Amazon Smiles, and Stop & Shop rewards. This has been one of our better years.

7. Help Wanted

Treasurer Officer for next school year

8. Important Dates

4/22 Secretaries Day

5/1 Principal's Day

5/4- 5/8 Teacher Appreciation Week 5/6 Nurse's Day

Meeting was adjourned by PTO President, Katie Quinlan at 7:21 p.m.

Minutes were transcribed by PTO Secretary, Jennifer Flynn.