

MMS Friday Notes

Karolyn Dahlstrom <kdahlstrom@darienps.org>

Fri 3/3/2023 3:00 PM

Hello Families,

I hope you had a wonderful winter vacation and enjoyed the extra snow day! The district where I live had school last week during which my 8th grader received his course recommendations, and was able to choose his electives, for 9th grade. It's an exciting (and nerve-wracking) time when your oldest is already thinking about high school and I know many of you are in the same boat! There are a few notes this week including some fun, upcoming events for our students.

- On Thursday, March 9th the Honor Band Students will participate in the SHU Middle School Band Festival. They will perform for a professional adjudicator and receive feedback and will collaborate with other middle school bands.
- Also on Thursday, March 9th Viva Voce and Camerata will participate in a choral workshop at DHS with guest clinician Marc Kaplan. The students will learn a piece live with the DHS chorus students and produce a performance video to share with the parent and school community.
- On Friday, March 10th, our 8th graders will be participating in Career Day. It is an exciting day when our students are able to hear about various careers from community members.
- Don't forget to order your student a [2023 yearbook](#)! The due date is quickly approaching. In past years, most MMS students order and receive yearbooks. We will not have extras to give out and we would hate to have students miss out. If you are still receiving email blasts from Herf Jones about purchasing, that most likely means you haven't ordered. Please email Casey Westcott, Cwestcott@darienps.org, if you are unsure if you already ordered.
- Applications are available for our 2023 **MMS Summer Reading Ambassadors program**, which is open to all students in grades 6 and 7. The MMS English department, in partnership with the Darien Library, will choose 16 students from among the applicants, and they will be tasked with developing a book talk designed to promote summer reading. Interested students can obtain applications from their English teachers. **The deadline for receiving applications is March 16th.**
- February's [Moments from the Middle](#) are available to view – as always, it is best viewed in presentation mode.
- The Rowan Center will once again be offering a parent information night regarding their presentations to 7th and 8th grade Healthy Living Classes. Parents who attended in the fall do not need to attend again – this is for parents of 7th and 8th graders who have Healthy Living 3rd or 4th marking period of this year.

Thursday, March 9th, 2022

6:00pm - 6:40pm 7th Grade

Joking vs. Harassment: Respecting Boundaries and Making School Safer

Recommended for: 7th-8th Grade Students

45 minutes

This program helps students understand the four main categories of sexual harassment: verbal, non-verbal, written, and physical. Students learn the difference between flirting and sexual harassment by discussing real-life scenarios. This presentation also helps students understand what safe—and unsafe—behavior at school looks like, and gives students resources on how to report sexual harassment should they ever experience or witness it.

6:45pm - 7:30pm- 8th grade

Understanding Consent

Recommended for: 8th Grade Students

45-55 minutes

This program is safety education for students, helping them understand the dynamics of consent. It gives them tools to make decisions about their own personal boundaries and values and resources they can use if they or someone they know experiences a sexual assault. Students learn how to identify whether relationships are consensual; how to protect both themselves and their partners; and key definitions and laws related to consensual relationships, sexual assault, and consent. They also explore common myths and misconceptions around the topic. *This is not a sex education program. The language used in this presentation is age-appropriate and specifically geared towards younger teens in the 7th-8th grade.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/6821522022>

Meeting ID: 682 152 2022

Have a wonderful weekend!

Karolyn

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