

MMS Thursday Notes

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Thu 4/20/2023 4:01 PM

Good morning families,

It's already mid-April and the end of the year is fast approaching! I hope you all enjoyed some quality time over the vacation with family and friends. My sons had the same week off as MMS this year and it was nice to spend some quality time with them. It has been wonderful to see the students returning with all of their April vacation stories! They are doing well adjusting back and preparing for the start of our SBAC testing. There are quite a few reminders and important dates below, so please read the entire message.

- We always encourage our students to develop good habits, such as getting enough sleep and eating a healthy breakfast, especially on test days. This allows them to be able to concentrate and to their best during the SBAC. We also remind them each afternoon that they must bring a fully charged Chromebook to school each day. We ask for your assistance in ensuring students are prepared each morning to do their best. SBAC will begin tomorrow with the practice test to make sure students are able to log on and access the testing site.
- Tomorrow, 8th grade students have the opportunity to travel to DHS for a 9th grade orientation. Notices to families were sent home Monday via ASPEN. Students will be leaving MMS at 8am. Please encourage your students to be on time so they do not miss this opportunity!
- Next week we begin our SBAC testing on Tuesday, April 25th. Students will be testing Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday for the math portion of the SBAC. We will have ELA testing on May 2nd and 3rd. Our 8th grade will also take the NGSS portion of SBAC on May 9th.
- Yesterday we had a practice Shelter In Place drill. The students were wonderful and quickly found the nearest classroom to wait out the drill. Our May and June drills will be fire drills.
- Our RULER lessons have been focusing on the impact of our actions on others. We have been working with students and reminding them about their choices and actions, and promoting positive behaviors and kindness. For a quick insight into the lesson today, ask them about the shopping cart theory.
- We have a date for our 8th grade graduation – it will be on Tuesday, June 13th at 5pm at the high school. We look forward to seeing everyone there!

A note from the MPA:

On Wednesday, May 10th at 7PM in the DHS Auditorium, New York Times best-selling author, CBS News Contributor, and Clinical Psychologist, Dr. Lisa Damour, Ph.D., will have an interactive discussion featuring her recently released book, "The Emotional Lives of Teenagers: Raising Connected, Capable, and Compassionate Adolescents". Lisa will be joined by Reena Ninan, Ask Lisa Podcast Co-host, television journalist, and our own Darien resident and Middlesex Middle School mom, who will

moderate the discussion. Registration can be done [HERE](#). Purchase Lisa's new book via Barrett Bookstore [HERE](#). Questions? Email Patty Deery or Lorraine Collins.

A note from TOPS:

As spring is upon us, the time is perfect to celebrate with our **7th grade TOPS** members at this Friday's **7TH GRADE TOPS SPRING FLING DANCE!** Taking place from 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. on Friday, 4/21/23 in the Town Hall Gym, the evening includes D.J. entertainment, dancing, refreshments and a whole lot of fun! The cost is \$10 (cash or check to Town of Darien) payable at check-in on Friday. Casual attire, spring colors encouraged. Additional information: www.darienct.gov/yc

The **8th Grade TOPS** program is excited to celebrate the Class of 2027 with its **YEAR-END DANCE** for 8th grade TOPS members! Taking place from 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. on Friday, 4/28/23 in the Town Hall Gym, the evening includes D.J. entertainment, refreshments, dancing and a photo booth to memorialize this exciting time of our 8th graders' lives! The cost is \$10 (cash or check to Town of Darien) payable at check-in on the 28th. Party attire is suggested. We're still looking for parent volunteers to help in a variety of ways. Please check-out our sign-up genius link [here](#). Additional information: www.darienct.gov/yc.

Thank you and have a wonderful weekend!

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