

NORTH COUNTRY ROAD MIDDLE SCHOOL

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April 2023

Dear Parents and/or Guardians:

I hope this month's newsletter finds you enjoying the arrival of spring, and the homestretch of our 2022-2023 school year. The month of April provides an ambitious schedule, including the beginning of our New York State Assessment schedule and our grade 8 Washington D.C. trip. Great weather brings attention to celebrations district wide, whether it be for our seniors in the high school, or our student body in every building participating in the Spring concert series, art shows, and honoring the body of work completed throughout the school year. With all that is going on for the current school year, we are busy preparing for our final exams and the 2023-24 schedule for instruction.

The **2023 grades 3-8 New York State (NYS) Assessments** are scheduled for ELA on April 19-20, for Math on May 3-4, and for grade 8 Science on May 31 and June 1. Students in Regents level courses (Algebra I and Earth Science) are exempt from the grade 8 NYS Math and Science assessments. Grades 6 & 8 will take the exam in traditional paper and pen setting, and our grade 7 students will take the computer-based tests (CBT) in ELA and Math. The assessments are designed to measure how well students are mastering the standards and help indicate if students are on track to graduate from high school with the critical thinking, problem solving, and reasoning skills needed for success in college and the modern workplace. The assessments also show how the district is progressing with the learning to guide instruction and professional development. The 3-8 assessment results will not be used for making student promotion or placement decisions and will not be used to evaluate teachers. Your child's score reports will show you how your child did in comparison to other students across the State and how your child scored in specific skill and concept areas. Therefore, your child's participation will provide valuable data about your child's learning progress. We understand that some parents still may wish to have their child not take just one, two, or all three (ELA, Math, and Science 8) state assessments.

We have sent an ed connect that asks for your child's intention in reference to taking each exam so that we can provide the most efficient schedule for each day. If you have not replied, you can use the link below to submit your response.

<https://forms.gle/NoTS5Umn7Y5ycuQQ8>

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| ELA Assessment (Grades 6-8) | April 19 th Emphasis on Reading. Multiple Choice and Constructed Response Questions | April 20 th : Emphasis on Writing Multiple Choice and Constructed Response Questions | Makeups April 24 th – 28 th |
| Math Assessment (Grades 6 - 8) | May 2 nd Session 1: Multiple Choice questions | May 3 rd Session 2: Multiple Choice, 6 Short Response and 1 extended response Question | Makeups May 5 th – May 11 th |
| Science Assessment (Grade 8 Only) | May 31 st Performance Test | June 5 th (Written) Part 1: Multiple Choice Part 2: Open Ended Questions | Makeups June 1 st & 2 nd (performance) June 6 th – 9 th (written) |

The third marking period will end on **Friday, April 14th**. Parents are reminded to check the Parent Portal of our student management system to keep up with your child's academic progress and attendance record. The Parent Portal is available via the internet. If you need information about logging onto the Parent Portal, please call **Ms. Elizabeth Cascione** at the district office, 474-2700 extension 728.

The **scheduling** process for the **2023- 2024** school year is already underway, our current 8th grade students participated in a **high school scheduling orientation** with MPHS and NCRMS guidance counselors. The counselors provided information in reference to the scheduling process for next year and the strategy for their high school experience. Please contact the Miller Place High School Guidance office with specific questions about the MPHS schedule. Our **sixth grade students** have been given the opportunity to select a World Language course of study from the course offerings in our middle school, Spanish or Italian. We are also "rolling over" the **music course selection** that your child is currently enrolled in. It is important to note that our general music program ends in grade seven. Those that are not enrolled in performance based music will have a study hall in grade eight. If you have any questions about your child's music course for the 2023 - 2024 school year, please call our guidance department at the middle school.

As part of our health curriculum, sixth grade students will participate in a puberty lesson which includes a video entitled, **Amazing Changes** on **Friday, May 12th**. This program is arranged in accordance with the New York State curriculum guidelines to educate our students about the physical and emotional changes that occur during puberty and to recognize and value what is unique within themselves during this time of their lives. You are invited to preview the videos (one that is shown to the boys and one that is shown to the girls) which will be made available via a link that we will provide for you during the week of May 1st. The lesson will be delivered to grade 6 girls by **Ms. Alycia Sullivan** (grades 7 & 8 Health teacher), and to grade 6 boys by **Mr. Domenic LoRe** (MPHS Health teacher).

Our **National Junior Honor Society** has asked for design ideas for this year's button that will be given to every senior to wear on graduation day! Advisors will hand out the template during the lunch periods so students have an idea of the size of the button. This annual tradition maintains a connection to our High School graduates as they walk across the stage to accept their diploma. The contest will run from **Monday, April 10th through Friday, May 5th**.

Important April dates and events:

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| Monday, April 3 rd – Friday April 7 th | Spring Recess SCHOOL CLOSED |
| Monday, April 10 th | Return to School "A" day |
| Friday April 14 th | 3 rd Making Period Ends |
| Friday, April 21 st | 6 th Grade Dance 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM NCRMS Report Cards Posted |
| Wednesday, April 19 th & Thursday, April 20 th | Grade 6-8 English Language Arts Assessment |
| Wednesday, April 26 th | BOE Meeting MPHS @ 8:00 PM |
| Wednesday, April 26 th – Friday, April 28 th | 8 th Washington D.C. Trip |

We are in the final stages of the preparation for our **annual 8th grade trip to Washington, D.C**, which will take place from Wednesday, April 26th – Friday, April 28th. We will meet with the students prior to the trip to ensure that all students are prepared for departure, as well as those who will be staying on campus for instruction. **All luggage for the trip needs to be dropped off in the middle school cafeteria on Tuesday, April 25th between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m.** In order to ensure the safety of our students and faculty and to be in compliance with the Miller Place School District Policy and Code of Conduct, all luggage is subject to a search by an administrator of the school district. **Please remember to complete the procedure in reference to the dispensing of medication while on the trip as well.** The form must be signed by a parent and a physician, and should be returned to our health office with the medications that will be administered by Wednesday, April 19th.

Listed below are some of our NCRMS student accomplishments/events:

U.S. Marine Tyler Cerce was invited to share his experiences around the world with **Mrs. Hibbard's** class. Tyler serves overseas, where he has served as a guard to a number of U.S. Embassies. While he is currently stationed in Kosovo, he has spent much of his time in China, which correlates to the World History curriculum that our students are engaged in. Background knowledge was inspired through a short presentation that showcased some of Tyler's responsibilities as well as some pictures in China. Tyler joined the class on Google Meet where he introduced himself and explained to the students in more detail what he does and where he's been. Mrs. Hibbard facilitated the students asking questions, as they had the opportunity to go up to the computer and ask Tyler questions about his time overseas, and most importantly, modern day China. It was an amazing experience for the students, and they were so engaged throughout the entire presentation.

Students from the North Country Road Middle School were invited to participate in a **Read Across America** tradition that includes visiting the Andrew Muller Primary School to share selected stories with the young readers. It is a day that all of our readers look forward to, and impressions made on our young readers inspires a desire to become strong readers, and maybe someday when in middle school they can come back to read to the next generation. Special thank you to **Ms. Cavaliere** for her collaboration with the Andrew Muller Primary School and coordination of this special event.

On Wednesday, March 22nd, the entire student body joined our faculty and staff in welcoming our friend and neighbor **Mrs. Christine Pendergast** to continue our quest for a cure for **A.L.S. with the Ride For Life**. Mrs. Pendergast spoke to the loving memory of **Mr. Chris Pendergast**, her husband and founder of the Ride who recently passed in 2020. **Mr. Paul Weisman** also joined us via video presentation to speak about his personal battle with this disease without a cure. Students were inspired by the story and the words of encouragement for our students when they face adversity. The student organizations are busy preparing some fundraising ideas in order to support the ride and look forward to cheering the participants on during the Ride for Life this May!

Congratulations to **Conrad Lindemann** for his first place finish at the **Long Island History Bee Regional** in the Grade 6 Division! The questions ranged from different time periods in history and included inquiry from both American and Global History. Conrad will move on to the National History Bee finals in Arlington, Virginia on June 1st, 2023. Best of luck Conrad!

We had another great **MATHCON experience this year!** This online Math competition consists of solving grade level math problems in forty minutes. Students who score the highest in each grade level are invited to participate in the next round which involves another level of problem solving. Congratulations to MP students **Chris Barton** (grade 11) and **Stephen Ye** (grade 9) who have qualified as finalists, and **Conrad Lindemann** (grade 6) has qualified as an alternate! Finalists from our school district will receive an invitation to the MATHCON finals at the McCormick Place convention center in Chicago, Illinois. Special thank you to **Ms. Maureen Radday** for her dedication and coordination of the annual event.

Congratulations to our **March character coupon winners, Max Quartararo (grade 6), Frankie Sigismondi (grade 7), and Yermi Ayala Gomez (grade 8)** were given some tangible rewards for their acts of kindness and compassion from local vendors and merchants.

In order to prevent some potential traffic issues in our parking lots, children that are to be dropped-off and picked-up before and after school hours should be using the back parking lot that is accessible by the Laddie A. Decker Sound Beach School Driveway. **The NCRMS "north roadway" is closed to all traffic except buses from 7:00 a.m. to 7:40 a.m. and from 2:15 p.m. until 2:30 p.m.** Your cooperation and interest in the safety of our students is appreciated.

Schools across the nation are taking measures to enhance safety standards in their communities. It is very important that you **remember to bring proper identification with you when signing your child out** of our school for any reason. Please ensure that family members/friends listed on the Census Verification Card are able to provide identification as well.

A brief reminder in reference to **school closings and delayed openings: *In case of adverse weather and/or road conditions, the district schools may be closed or delayed by two or three hours, depending on the severity of the weather.*** Visit News 12 and our website where school closings, delayed openings, and inclement weather bus stops will be posted. You will also be notified via our communication system Ed Connect, which will send a phone call and/or an email to the numbers/addresses on file. **Please be sure that you discuss your early dismissal plan with your child.**

We have posted a number of informational items for your review. One example that will always accompany the newsletter is the monthly publication titled, **Middle Years**, which provides information and ideas to help support your adolescent child. The website for middle school interscholastic athletics information is <http://www.sectionxi.org>. Please check this website for dates of games, directions, etc. Also, take a look at the **FYI NCR Page** a link can be found on the NCRMS homepage. The goal of this website is to help inform students and parents about all of the great things that are planned for the North Country Road Middle School. Please visit the District's homepage (<http://www.millerplace.k12.ny.us/>) to find the link that will bring you to a site dedicated to promoting Miller Place School District happenings. Scroll through the page to see news stories and photos as we celebrate our District's hardworking students and dedicated staff. This page can also be accessed by visiting <http://millerplaceinthedia.com/>.

Feel free to contact your child's teachers, guidance counselor, or any member of the administration at any time to answer your questions or address your concerns. Remember, no concern is too small. Working together, we can help your child reach his or her maximum potential in order to experience success.

Sincerely,
Matthew C. Clark
Matthew C. Clark

Sincerely,
Christine Mangiamele
Christine Mangiamele

Sincerely,
Matthew Nicoletti
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