



# STONINGTON

## MIDDLE SCHOOL

**Ms. Deanna Brucoli**  
Principal

**Ms. Tina Eisenbeis**  
Assistant Principal

**Mr. Dan Pagnataro**  
Dean of Students

Dear SMS Community,

We are very excited to welcome new and returning students, families, and staff back for the 2023 -2024 school year at Stonington Middle School. We hope everyone enjoyed the summer and is now feeling refreshed and ready for school to begin. Everyone at SMS is enthusiastically awaiting our opening day on Tuesday, September 5th!

Our focus on building our school community by providing many opportunities for family involvement will continue this school year. We will be hosting multiple events for parents and guardians to learn more about their student's middle school experience, beginning with our Back to School Night Open House on September 20th. Our administrative and mental health teams will again be offering drop-in Q & A sessions for families at various times and sites in the community throughout the school year.

Our students are the most essential members of the school community. Helping students to understand the impact they can have on their classroom, school and local communities continues to be one of our main goals. In the first few weeks of school, students will learn about Rays' Way expectations at SMS and how being *ready*, *responsible* and *respectful* helps to create a safe, productive and fun learning community. Students will have the opportunity to join a student advisory board, which will meet with administration to share ideas and opportunities for growth for our student body. In addition, we will continue to work with local and regional partners to provide our students with multiple opportunities to see the relevance of their learning through engaging in their community.

Middle School is a time of great change for students and their families, so SMS will continue to focus on predictability and connectedness which are essential to increasing student engagement, achievement and overall social-emotional well-being. We have a slightly different schedule this year, though our school structures and expectations will remain consistent. Each grade will have two houses and advisory groups will remain the same for our returning students. We will also continue to offer high-interest, semester-long encore classes to our 7th and 8th grade students.

We are currently working on finalizing student schedules and will let families know through ParentSquare when this process is complete. School supply lists have been shared through Parent Square and are linked [here](#).

Parents are encouraged to review the recently approved [calendar for the 2023-2024 school year](#). Please note that school start time is now 8:05 AM and dismissal is 2:50 PM. When there is an early release day, dismissal remains at 11:25 AM and lunch will be served. Please refer to the district calendar for updates: <https://www.stoningtonschools.org/district/district-calendar>.

We are grateful for the support and involvement of all families who entrust us with their children and look forward to working together to provide an exciting middle school experience.

Best Regards,

Deanna Brucoli, Principal  
Tina Eisenbeis, Assistant Principal  
Dan Pagnataro, Dean of Students.