

NORTH COUNTRY ROAD MIDDLE SCHOOL

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October 2023

Our School year is off to a great start moving toward more opportunities for student engagement as we dive into the curriculum, and our extracurricular opportunities get off the ground. It was great to have students return in September excited to get involved in the classroom and beyond.

The **New York State Assessments** in English and Math for grades 6-8 have been scheduled for the spring of 2024. New York State has included a point of emphasis on the evolution to computer based testing, which is being discussed in terms of our preparation. We will continue to deliver instruction that prepares our students for the exams on a daily basis. If you are interested in learning more about the process, information can be found within some helpful websites in reference to the state exams (www.nysed.gov and www.engageny.org), or you can always contact the building for information.

Assessment Schedule

Grade 6 – 8 English Language Arts	Wednesday, April 10 th & Thursday, April 11 th , 2024
Grade 6 – 8 Mathematics	Tuesday, May 7 th & Wednesday, May 8 th , 2024
Grade 8 Science Performance exam	Wednesday, May 15 th , 2024
Algebra I NYS Regents	Thursday, June 4 th , 2024
Grade 8 Science Written exam	Monday, June 5, 2024
Earth Science NYS Regents	Friday, June 16 th (8 a.m.)

Some of our students in grade 8 will challenge the **New York State Assessment** in Science, while others will take the Earth Science Regents Exam during Final exam week. Our 8th grade students that have been selected to take Algebra I are not responsible for the NYS Grade 8 Math Assessment due to their necessary attention to the Regents exam. All of these exams are important determinants of academic achievement and indicate when academic intervention is necessary.

We will begin our standardized assessment process that includes the **Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA™)** formative assessments with the Fall Session taking place during the week of October 10th in English/Language Arts, and the week of 10/16 for Math. Each assessment takes approximately 45-60 minutes, and the turnaround time to evaluate results is minimal. There is no test preparation that is required at home or at school prior to the test. Students will participate in a winter and spring administration session in English Language Arts and Math as well. NWEA™ has no correlation to or association with any “high stakes” testing. The data will be reviewed by our classroom teachers and building administration only to inform instruction and speak to individual progress in the classroom.

We have discussed expectations for the 2023-2024 school year during the month of September during cafeteria discussions and in class. This discourse included a review of the district's **Code of Conduct**, which speaks to our practice and policies (i.e. Attendance, Eligibility, and Dress Code). We ask that students refer to their student agenda handbook where this information is outlined

An important element of daily conversations is to continue to educate our students in reference to the **Dignity For All Students Act**, legislation designed to provide support in order to maintain a safe and healthy school climate. Our middle school provides an approach to combat peer mistreatment through education, providing programs and lessons as part of our Character Education program, as well as our daily learning experiences. You can always refer to our district's Code of Conduct, which is available online, or speak to our building administration for more specific information about The Dignity Act or any matter that pertains to health and safety.

In order to ensure that our student body is prepared in the case of an emergency, we have begun a series of **fire evacuation drills**. Students are instructed to follow the instruction of the adult (teacher, administrator, nurse, aide, etc.) in order to leave the building safely. We have also scheduled the first of a series of **lockdown drills**, which have been designed in cooperation with our Suffolk County Police Department Resource Officer.

All of our students participate in the **First Student Bus Safety program**, which includes a series of drills using the different methods of evacuation from the bus, as well as some strategies that will emphasize safe practices. Students are reminded about the significance of safety and appropriate behavior on the school bus. Building administration has emphasized the fact that our adopted slogan, "Not in our school" applies to our daily bus ride as well.

The beginning of the school year at NCRMS brings with it some amazing opportunities to provide learning experiences outside the traditional classrooms. Our grade seven students will participate in a **field trip to Cedar Beach and Sadderly landing** to take samples of the water quality to evaluate the health of our local ecosystem. After collecting the data, classes will work with the information back in the classroom to expand upon their findings, coupled with conversation about what we can do to protect the wetlands and maintain a proactive approach to conservation. The trip will take place on Wednesday, October 4th and Thursday, October 5th.

Our preparation and planning is underway for this year's **grade 8 Washington D.C. trip**. We have been working with **Curriculum Travel of America**, an extremely reputable organization that we have worked with for over 15 years to make some pertinent decisions. Our parent information meeting will take place on Wednesday, October 11th, in our cafeteria at 7 p.m. The dates for this year's trip have been reserved for **Wednesday, April 17th – Friday, April 19th**.

Our schedule of **extra-curricular club offerings** is off and running. A listing of these clubs can be found in the student agenda. Students should listen to the morning announcements for meeting dates and times. We will continue to provide information via the Ed Connect system in reference to club start dates and times. We are also in the process of providing a place on our new website for club information, which will include weekly reminders.

Important October Dates:

Friday, October 6 th :	Progress Reports posted
Monday, October 9 th :	Columbus Day SCHOOL CLOSED
Wednesday, October 11 th :	Grade 8 Washington D.C. Parent Information Meeting 7pm NCR Cafe
Friday, October 20 th :	7 th & 8 th Grade Dance 7-9 NCR Café
Wednesday, October 25 th :	Board of Education Meeting 8:00 PM at MPHS

Listed below are some of NCRMS accomplishments:

Our **Miller Place Spirit Week** was Tuesday, September 26th- Friday, September 29th. The Student government had selected a series of theme days for students to participate to show their school spirit. We followed themes each day:

Tuesday, September 26th: Tropical Tuesday

Wednesday, September 27th: Pajama Wednesday

Thursday, September 28th: Throwback Thursday (pick a decade and dress the part!)

Friday, September 29th: Spirit Day (wear your favorite MP jersey or school color!)

Our **Homecoming Parade** took place on Saturday, September 30th, beginning at 12:00 p.m. by the MP Firehouse on the south side of 25A. The Football game vs. Islip began at 1:00 p.m. It was a great day to get together and celebrate our community!

Congratulations to September's character coupon winners, **Brennan Fanning** (grade 6), **Nico Spallina** (grade 7), and **Giada Tardo** (grade 8). Students were given 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.

We continue to work to maintain **communication** by providing information for community review. Our **Ed Connect protocol** is used for reminders and timely information. Please visit our **District's enhanced webpage** (www.millerplace.k12.ny.us) for information and highlights of our middle school's events, as well as web addresses of the community organizations that support our school community. **Section XI**, the governing body of interscholastics maintains a website for middle school interscholastic athletics information. (<http://www.sectionxi.org>).

Sincerely,

Matthew C. Clark

Principal