

NORTH COUNTRY ROAD MIDDLE SCHOOL

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November 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am pleased to state that we have had a remarkable beginning to another year, maintaining a very busy schedule and working to fine tune the organizational skills that will serve as a foundation to a strong academic career. The October calendar proved to be challenging with many opportunities that will provide a foundation to the coming months.

The first quarter concludes on Friday, November 3rd. Families will be notified via our Ed Connect system when report cards are posted on School Tool. This checkpoint is an appropriate time to seek out help if your child is in need of academic support. Your child's guidance counselor will contact you if additional support is needed as well. Our ELA and Math AIS classes are designed to support students that need additional time and teaching in these core subjects. Please call your child's guidance counselor to discuss your concerns or answer any questions that you may have.

We completed the **Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA™) Measures of Academic Progress® (MAP®)** formative assessments with the Fall Session taking place during the week of **October 10th and October 16th**. 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 your child's classroom teacher and building administration only to inform instruction and speak to individual progress in the classroom.

In order to prevent traffic issues that may produce unsafe situations 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 by our tennis courts. **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.

Our **FYI weekly schedule** has been added to our new webpage! Take a look at the **FYI NCR Page** that can be found under the announcements section of the NCRMS homepage. This link will provide weekly reminders that support our calendar and club google classrooms, and will provide special announcements about cancellations and/or changes to the schedule. 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.

The Miller Place Schools Food Pantry is located in the middle school's Cafeteria, and has supported local families in need throughout the year. If you would like to donate food to the pantry, you can drop off non perishable items during the school day in our security vestibule.

Students were able to maintain the tradition of celebrating **Halloween** by wearing costumes to school and sharing their creativity and favorite characters from literature and film. It was nice to see our student body enjoy the holiday during the school day on **Tuesday, October 31st, 2023.**

Important November Dates:

Friday, November 3rd	1 st Marking Period Ends for NCRMS
Tuesday, November 7th	Superintendents Conf. Day/Election Day NO STUDENT ATTENDANCE
Friday, November 10th	Veterans Day Observed SCHOOL CLOSED
Monday, November 13th:	Picture Make Up Day
Wednesday, November 15th:	BOE Meeting 8:00 PM MPHS
Friday, November 17th:	Grade 6 Dance 6:30PM - 8:30PM NCR Café \$5 Entry, \$1 Snacks & Drinks Report Cards Posted for NCRMS
Tuesday, November 21st:	Early Dismissal Drill, All Buildings Release 15 minutes early
Wednesday, November 22nd - Friday, November 24th	Thanksgiving SCHOOL CLOSED

Listed below are some of our NCRMS student accomplishments:

Our grade seven students participated in an annual field trip dedicated to measuring the health of our local shoreline ecosystem. **Mrs. Optiz** and **Mr. Dowd** moved the classroom to **Cedar Beach and Sadderly landing** to take samples of the water quality, collect some specimens from the shore using a process called seining, using a net to safely collect sea life and return all life to the water after analysis, and learn from Town of Brookhaven experts at the education center and sea life pool, as well as the local oyster farm. After collecting the data, classes will bring 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. Special thank you to Mrs. Opitz for organizing this annual experience!

Over 180 students from **grade 7 & 8 attended a dance** held in our cafeteria on Friday, October 20th. The dance took place from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., where students enjoyed music played by our D.J., where snacks and beverages were made available. It was a great time had by all!!

Congratulations to **October's character coupon winners, (grade 6) Jack Simoes, (grade 7) Dylan Flores Lima and (grade 8) Lilah Kiltbau.** Students were given rewards for their acts of kindness and compassion from local vendors and merchants in our community.

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.**

From time to time the guidance office receives information on **enrichment programs.** If you are interested in learning more about these programs, contact your child's guidance counselor.

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.

Best wishes for a peaceful Thanksgiving holiday.

Sincerely,
Matthew C. Clark
Matthew C. Clark

Sincerely,
Nicholas Grande
Nicholas Grande

Sincerely,
Matthew Nicoletti
Matthew Nicoletti

MCC:jlf
Enc.