

UPDATES FROM THE PRINCIPALS



OCTOBER
EDITION

WHAT'S
HAPPENING?

Dear Seaford Middle School Families,

This past month we took our first steps to grow as Teams by having students participate in their first Teaming event. Teaming is a core philosophy for middle level education and a central tenet of Seaford Middle School. We strongly believe that a cohesive community is one that appreciates and values the perspectives of others, learns how to work together, and strives to build networks of collaboration between its members. Teaming is how we achieve this.

As Seaford Scholars, we want our students to grow academically and socially-emotionally, and each event creates opportunities for our students to accomplish these goals.

Our first Teaming activity was called "the Seaford Middle School Ice Cream Social". It was an activity designed to provide students with the chance to learn about teamwork, communication, and collaboration while also eating a good deal of ice cream! Each team came together and in groups of 4 were tasked with identifying the individual flavors within 3 different scoops of ice cream.

Students were provided complex flavors (Brookie, Tri-Berry, and Blueberry Cheesecake), and then had 30 minutes to taste, discuss their theories, and record their answers. Teacher members of each Team led the groups in a conversation before the tasting on what actions lead to good teamwork, and then after the tasting asked students to reflect on what moves they made as a group to come to a consensus on what flavors they recorded. The Team in each grade that recorded the most flavors accurately won! A big shoutout to the White Team (8th grade), Blue Team (7th grade) and Purple Team (6th grade) for having the most refined tastebuds and collecting the most points!

Five more exciting Teaming events are planned for this school year. Each will task students to work together, and each event will pair students with different members of their Team to collaborate with.

Winning Teams will see their progress tracked in the Main Office. Soon, we will have fish bowls for each grade on the counter in the Main Office that will fill with colored beads marking the accumulated points throughout the year (if this sounds like the House Point system from the Harry Potter books, it's because we are huge fans!) At the conclusion of the year, the Team that wins the most points will be awarded the "Teaming Trophy"! These trophies will stay in each Team teacher's classrooms for the following year and then rotate yearly based on future winners.

TEAMING EVENTS AT SEAFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL!

Our next Teaming activity is scheduled to take place around Halloween. In this event, Teams will be tasked with painting a resemblance of various teachers from their Teams on pumpkins. Groups of students will have to work together on a single pumpkin and collaborate on design and style. We will begin the session with a review of their previous reflections on what actions they took to successfully work together.

The goal is to have a continuous dialogue throughout the year on what qualities, actions, and personality traits lead to productive teamwork. At the end of the year, students will have had the opportunity to work alongside a large proportion of their Team, both friends and new acquaintances, and see that with the correct mindframe they can work alongside anyone. We hope to build lasting bonds between students that will serve them well throughout their careers as students in the Seaford Union Free School District.

Mr. Polite and I will send out more information about each Teaming event as we get closer to them. We look forward to seeing the amazing work our students create and to provide the middle school community with fun experiences that will create lasting memories.

We thank everyone who supported our first Teaming event. In particular, a big shoutout to our amazing Main Office staff. Without the help of Ms. Kaminski, Ms. McKenna, Ms. Fischetti, and Ms. Castillo, it wouldn't be possible to make these plans come to fruition.

We look forward to growing our Teaming program at Seaford Middle School and continuing to find ways to build networks between our students and support them to grow as Seaford Scholars!

As always, thank you for your support and Go Vikings!

Best,

Dr. Morey- Proud Principal of Seaford Middle School



