SUMMER 2025 NEWSLETTER

IMPORTANT DATES

- 7TH GRADE ORIENTATION
  - THURSDAY, AUGUST 28, 12-2 PM
- SCHOOL CLOSED - LABOR DAY
  - MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1
- FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL
  - THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4
- BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT - 7TH & 8TH GRADE
  - THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11
- SCHOOL CLOSED - ROSH HASHANAH
  - TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

A MESSAGE FROM MR. ACCARDI

Greetings UMS Families,

I hope you and your middle schooler are staying cool and making the most of these sunny summer days. As the UMS Administration Team begins preparing for the 2025-2026 school year, I'm excited to continue a tradition started by Mr. Barbosa — sharing a newsletter with our families. I want to take a moment to express my sincere gratitude for the many ways Mr. Barbosa supported our students and staff over the past few months. His care and leadership made a lasting impact.

I'm also thrilled to share that Ms. Meghan Moore will be joining the UMS leadership team as our new Vice Principal. Many of you will recognize her name — she has served our school community in various capacities, including School Counselor, Musical Director, and 8th-Grade Advisor. We are so excited to welcome her into this new role!

As you enjoy the summer months, I encourage you and your middle schooler to take time to unplug and reconnect — whether through classic summer traditions or by trying something new together. Below, you'll find essential updates, dates to keep in mind, and ways to keep your middle schooler's mind lightly engaged (but not too much — this is their time to recharge!).

With great C.A.R.E.
-Mr. Mark Accardi
The New UMS Principal

REMINDERS

SPORTS AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES
More information coming soon!

SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENTS
Rising 7th Grade
Rising 8th Grade

MATH PRACTICE RESOURCES

STUDENT IDs
Please have your student store their ID in a safe place over the summer, as they will need it in September to start the school year!

UMS SUMMER CHALLENGE!
Spend some time meeting up with your fellow UMS cougars without your screens. Whether it is at a house, park, or somewhere in town, write Mr. Accardi (maccardi@mtsd.us) and Ms. Moore (mmoore@mtsd.us) an email sharing what you did to earn an ice cream on us!

Give us a follow on Instagram! @montyUMS

COUGAR PRIDE

GREETINGS FROM MS. MOORE

Dear UMS Families and Community,

I am honored and excited to introduce myself to you as the Vice Principal of Montgomery Upper Middle School. I have been a proud member of the UMS family for the past 15 years, during which I have had the privilege of being part of Montgomery's long-standing tradition of social and academic excellence. In my new role, I aim to build upon my meaningful relationships with students, parents, and staff while striving to contribute to UMS's inclusive and innovative school culture in new and exciting ways.

I began my career at UMS as an Art Teacher. Over time, I was inspired to pursue a degree in School Counseling to help effect greater social-emotional development in our middle school students and promote change within their systems. As a UMS school counselor and 8th-grade advisor, I proudly implemented a variety of character education and mental health initiatives, including UMS Cougar CARE Days, PAWS for a CAUSE events, and the Camp Mason 8th-grade class trip. Also in my time at UMS, I stepped out of my comfort zone and challenged myself to learn and grow alongside our students when I became the co-director of the UMS Spring Musical. So far, in each of my roles at UMS, my fondest memories are the moments when students and staff come together to share vulnerability, take positive risks, experience joy, and laugh together.

The focus of my work has been and will continue to be guiding our students to build a social-emotional foundation grounded in confidence, connection, and resilience. I believe that the middle school years are among the most important and exciting times in a child's life. As such, I strive to support our staff and students in successfully navigating the nuances of middle school and adolescence, while also preparing them to become outstanding citizens and leaders in our broader social world. This is no easy feat, but it is certainly something I am passionate about!

When I am not at school, I am likely making memories with my family at the Jersey Shore. I am always happy when spending time with my family, and I am always excited to share a story about my dog Leon, or my two nephews, Mason and Jackson, whom I absolutely adore. If I'm not with my family, you can find me at the gym or practicing yoga, as exercise has always been an essential part of my life as well.

I look forward to beginning work with Mr. Accardi this summer to make UMS the best place it possibly can be! And I am even more excited to make new memories at UMS when we welcome our students back to school in September!

Sincerely,
Ms. Meghan Moore
UMS Vice Principal