

JUNE 2025 NEWSLETTER



A MESSAGE FROM MR. BARBOSA

Dear UMS School Community,

As you know, Mr. Accardi will become the new principal of UMS beginning on July 1st. I know you will join me in congratulating him as we celebrate the end of the school year and the promotion of our 8th graders together. My five months as the interim principal of UMS have gone quickly. I have enjoyed learning about the school, working with the staff, and getting to know the students. As I prepare to return to retirement, I thought I would leave you with some observations about our school.

IMPORTANT DATES

- SPRING ORCHESTRA CONCERT
 - THURSDAY, JUNE 12 @ 7 PM
- 8TH GRADE SEMI FORMAL
 - FRIDAY, JUNE 13 @ 7PM
- 7TH GRADE TRIP TO iPLAY AMERICA
 - WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18
- THE WRITE NIGHT
 - WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18 @ 6:30 PM
- 8TH GRADE TRIP TO FROGBRIDGE
 - THURSDAY, JUNE 19
- SCHOOL CLOSED
 - FRIDAY, JUNE 20
- 8TH GRADE PROMOTION @ MHS
 - MONDAY, JUNE 23
- LAST DAY OF SCHOOL
 - JUNE 24 (EARLY DISMISSAL)

The first thing we should be proud of at UMS is our students. I was greeted with handshakes, high fives, and fist bumps during my first week and on many occasions throughout my stay. In addition to being welcoming, the students are respectful, kind, and hardworking. Congratulations on raising such wonderful young people, and thank you for sharing them with me since January.

I have always been proud of the schools I have led and the programs that the staff and I created. The shared leadership and decision-making structure at UMS is something I have not experienced before, and it is something I wish I had incorporated in my previous schools. It is a collaborative structure that places many of the decisions in the hands of those who will help implement them. It helps create an “all in” mentality amongst the staff and provides administration with valuable insights and perspectives. The most successful programs I have implemented in my career have followed the establishment of a consensus. The leadership and decision-making structure at UMS has this characteristic built in.

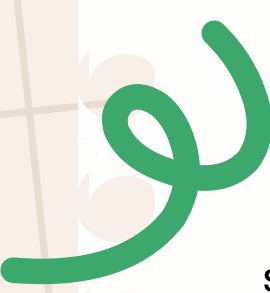
One of the results of the shared leadership and decision-making structure at UMS is a clear focus on the whole child. The school is designed to provide the structure, experiences, and support that help young people navigate the turbulent middle school years and bring UMS **CARE** (**C**ommunity, **A**ceptance, **R**esilience and **E**mpathy) to life.

Since I have arrived at UMS, I have heard “we are a family” again and again. There is a real sense of community in the building. There is a community of staff, a community of students, and a community of the school. From our amazing PTO, student groups, and staff connections, the “we are family” line is not just a saying. It is a way of being at UMS.

Thank you for allowing me to be a part of the UMS community. It has been a pleasure and a treat. I hope that, in some small way, I have had a positive impact on your child(ren) and the school.

Sincerely,

Matthew Barbosa
Retired Principal



REMINDERS



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! Replacement IDs can be ordered [here](#).

8TH GRADE SEMI-FORMAL - "Night in the Enchanted Garden"

Roll out the red carpet! All 8th-grade students are invited to dance and socialize at our annual 8th-grade semi-formal on Friday, June 13th, 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm. We ask that students “dress to impress” while being mindful of our school dress code. Jeans or shorts are not permitted. The cost for the semi-formal is \$5 and will be sold in advance during lunches. Pizza, snacks, and drinks will be available for purchase.

8TH GRADE PROMOTION CEREMONY

Students are to report to the Montgomery High School Auxiliary gym at 5:15 p.m. on June 23rd for staging and pre-ceremony announcements. The promotion ceremony will begin promptly at 6:00 p.m. in the main gymnasium and is expected to conclude at 7:30 p.m. Students are kindly asked to “dress to impress” while adhering to our school dress code. Jeans or shorts are not permitted.

Each student is allotted four (4) guest/family seats. Guests will be checked in at the door. Please get in touch with Ms. Kotler at hkotler@mtsd.us if you need extra and/or handicapped seating.

We want to remind families that students will be rehearsing for promotion on the morning of June 23rd. Therefore, attendance is mandatory on this day. If your child is absent, we will conclude that they will not participate in the evening’s celebration. If there are any extenuating circumstances, please let us know so we can do our best to accommodate you.

We are happy to help any student who needs attire for the celebrations or assistance in covering the cost of these events. Please contact Ms. Moore, Mrs. Doyle-Smith, or Mr. Barbosa if you need help.



hello
SUMMER

COUGAR PRIDE



GREETINGS FROM MR. ACCARDI

Dear UMS Families and Community,

It is with great pride, gratitude, and CARE that I share my recent appointment to the position of Principal of Montgomery Upper Middle School. I have been a member of the MTSD community, specifically UMS, for the past 11 years. Throughout my time here, I have served as a special education teacher across multiple settings, directed six musicals, and served as 8th-grade advisor, leading many students through the important traditions of UMS like Camp Mason and Promotion.

Most recently, I've had the privilege of serving the students and staff of UMS as Vice Principal for the past four years. I take great pride in the work I've done to support our incredible school, building strong relationships with students and staff, supporting our high-quality instruction, expanding our Cougar CARE Day program, strengthening our multi-tiered systems of support, and celebrating the honor of receiving the Blue Ribbon Award. Most importantly, I've strived to model our core values of Community, Acceptance, Empathy, and Resilience in all aspects of our vibrant middle school experience.

To the current and future students of UMS, I promise to work hard each day to ensure UMS is a safe and CARE-ing school, where you all can learn, build connections, and truly know and feel that you matter. I look forward to leading UMS into its next chapter and cannot wait to see all that our students and staff will achieve.

With C.A.R.E.

-Mr. Mark Accardi, Future Principal of UMS

