

MAY 2025 NEWSLETTER



IMPORTANT DATES

- BEYOND THE SCREEN - PARENTING IN THE DIGITAL AGE
 - WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30
- NJSLA AND CogAT TESTING
 - MAY 8-9 NJSLA LANGUAGE ARTS (7TH & 8TH GRADE)
 - MAY 12-13 NJSLA MATH (7TH & 8TH GRADE)
 - MAY 14-15 NJSLA SCIENCE (8TH GRADE)
 - MAY 14-15 CogAT SCIENCE (7TH GRADE)
- SPRING BAND CONCERT
 - WEDNESDAY, MAY 14 @ 7 PM
- SCHOOL CLOSED
 - FRIDAY, MAY 23 - TUESDAY, MAY 27
 - WEDNESDAY, MAY 28TH IS A B-DAY
- SPRING CHOIR CONCERT
 - THURSDAY, MAY 29 @ 7 PM
- DISTRICT ART EXTRAVAGANZA @ MHS
 - THURSDAY, MAY 29, 6-8 PM
 - FRIDAY, MAY 30, 6-8 PM
 - SATURDAY, MAY 31, 9 AM-1 PM

A MESSAGE FROM MR. BARBOSA

Dear UMS School Community,

It is hard to believe that we are in the final marking period of the 2024-2025 school year. The last quarter of the year is always a busy time filled with concerts, trips, celebrations, and, of course, 8th-grade promotion.

In the last few months, we had to cancel two after-school social events for our students due to a lack of student participation. The first was a dance planned by our student council, and the second was an off-campus event planned by our PTO. I understand that family or other extracurricular activities may prevent a student from attending a school event. As someone who has been in education for nearly forty years, I have seen the steady decline in student participation in school social events. School social events provide students with opportunities to interact with their classmates in a more informal setting. These opportunities include developing social skills such as communication, forming new friendships, and dealing with minor conflicts. School social events also allow students to interact with peers outside of their grade, social circle, or schedule. It also provides a necessary level of independence, allowing students to navigate social situations independently of their parents' supervision. Finally, school social events build a sense of community. I am sure that as parents, you are already aware of these benefits, as they are nothing new. What is new is that in an age where any game, movie, or friend is just a click away, the ability to be busy without having to be social is easy. Please continue to encourage, or even require, your child to participate in these social events organized by the school. They are good for our students, community, and school. Of course, if you have ideas as to how UMS can plan events that attract more students, please let me know.

I met with the students today to review some changes to our flex schedule and to reinforce our expectations for the remainder of the school year. Please click [here](#) to review the information shared (especially regarding the dress code) so that you can discuss it with your child(ren).

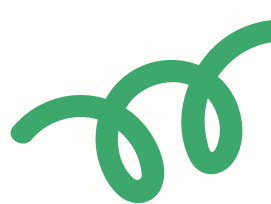
I hope you and your family find some time to enjoy the spring weather together. I look forward to my continued work with the UMS community and sharing in the excitement and celebrations that the end of the school year brings.

Sincerely,

M. Barbosa
Interim Principal



REMINDERS



BEYOND THE SCREEN - PARENTING IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Click [here](#) for more information

STUDENT IDs

Please remind students that their IDs must be visible at all times during the school day and while on transportation. Any student without an ID will be required to wear a temporary ID until their school-issued ID is replaced. Replacement IDs can be ordered [here](#).



SNACKS

A reminder that snacks are permitted in the classroom. All classrooms are nut-free (nuts include peanuts, tree nuts and nut by-products). Also, there is no sharing of food. Please be mindful that some students and staff may have other life threatening food allergies as well. Thanks!

STUDENT DROP OFF AND PICK UP

The parent drop-off doors, located at the rear of the building, are available for entrance from **7:55 AM to 8:15 AM**. Please do not drop students off prior to 7:55 AM. Arrivals after 8:15 AM should report to the Main Office, not the rear of the building. Classes start at 8:20 so it is necessary to close parent drop off at 8:15 so that staff can be with the students/classes they are assigned to. Thank you for dropping off your child by 8:15.

We ask that when you are using the parent drop-off/pick-up driveway, you move up as close as possible to the car in front to make as much room as possible. Additionally, when exiting the parent drop-off/pick-up driveway you may not TURN LEFT and the UMS parking lot is NOT to be used as a U-Turn.



COUGAR PRIDE

2024 UMS MUSICAL, THE WIZARD OF OZ, NOMINATED FOR 9 AWARDS

Our beautiful production of The Wizard of Oz from last year received 9 nominations from the Montclair University Foxy Awards! Please read on for the list of nominations and for information about attending the ceremony.



- Actress in a Musical: Isha Pal
- Acting Ensemble in a Musical: Sarah Talbot Coyle & Meghan Moore
- Lighting Technicians: Sonja Shao, Shruthi Vankayala, Aashna Vishwak, Azka Butt, Caden Fitzpatrick, Julia Wu
- Costume Design: Meghan Moore & Sarah Talbot Coyle
- Student Scenic Design: Lucas Heines & Gianna Schembari
- Student Dance Captains: Elsa Song, Jonah Olson
- Direction of a Musical: Sarah Talbot Coyle & Meghan Moore
- The Jo Anne Fox Middle School Theatre Teacher Award: Sarah Talbot Coyle
- Overall Production of a Musical: Sarah Talbot Coyle & Meghan Moore



UMS DRUMLINE PERFORMANCE AT ROTARY RUN

Congratulations to our UMS Drumline who performed with the MHS Drumline at the Rotary Run on Sunday, April 27th.

