

# UPDATES FROM THE PRINCIPALS



SEPTEMBER  
EDITION

WHAT'S  
HAPPENING?

Dear Seaford Middle School Families,

We hope this finds you well! Welcome to the 2025-2026 school year. We are excited to see our 7th and 8th graders again and to welcome our new 6th graders to the middle school. We promise that the 25-26 school year will be filled with fun, learning, and growth for our students.

In this month's Updates from the Principals, we wanted to take time to discuss a few key systems in the middle school that will prepare our students for the year ahead.

## Teaming

Seaford Middle School follows a Teaming model. This is a model of education where students are placed into Teams that all share the same core teachers. In 6th grade, we have 4 Teams (purple, teal, yellow, and orange), in 7th grade we have 2 Teams (Red and Blue), and in 8th grade we have 2 Teams (White & Green). The benefit of Teaming is that teachers all work together to support common students. Teachers have time within their schedules to meet as a Team, collaborate, and work together to support their students.

Beyond core teachers on each Team, students will also have "off-Team" teachers who teach non-core classes including Art, Music, Technology, and exploratory courses. Students may be with students in these classes from other Teams. For students, Teaming is an excellent way to build close relationships with a core group of students that they share their courses with.

## Teaming Events

A part of this Team building comes from Teaming Events. These events take place throughout the year and focus on collaborative problem solving. Each of these activities takes the form of a fun challenge. For example, around Winter Break our students will take part in a gingerbread house building competition. In the Spring, students will take part in a school-wide quiz bowl. Students work together in small groups, learning how to collaborate together, and compete to earn points for the class cup.

## The Seaford Middle School Class Cup

Students work throughout the year to accumulate Class Cup points. This comes through a variety of activities, including Teaming events. They can also accumulate Class Cup points by participating in Spirit Days. These events are shared ahead of time on Parent Square and are often themed around different dress up competitions (ex: Pajama Day, Jersey Day, etc.) We encourage all students to participate as it is a great way to build school spirit. The winning Team from each grade will be invited to a fun picnic at the end of the school year!

# SEAFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL

## Team Meetings

Another benefit of Teaming is that it provides a structure for families to meet with their core teaching team. If you have questions or concerns about your student's progress in class or would like to discuss your child's academic progress with their teachers, feel free to reach out to your child's guidance counselor to set up a Team meeting. We encourage students to be a part of these meetings to ensure that their voice is heard. Likewise, our guidance counselors will reach out to families directly to set up Team meetings periodically to collaborate with families to ensure their children's success.

## Assessment Calendars

All Teams have "assessment calendars" that are located on Parent Square. These assessment calendars are a common place where teachers post due dates for upcoming assessments. This is a great place for families and students to see upcoming assessment dates to help plan their time appropriately for studying and attending extra help sessions. All students and families can find their Team group on Parent Square and will find the assessment calendar in the upper right-hand corner of the Team page. Families will also receive notifications when a new assessment is posted to the calendar.

## Teach Extra Help Sessions

Each week, teachers have an extra help session. This session is held after school or before school and is a great opportunity for students to receive additional help and guidance, often times in small groups. Extra help session times and locations can be found on the school website and on the teachers' information pages. We recommend that students reach out to their teachers on days they intend to come for extra help so that the teachers can personalize the type of support or material they will provide to each individual student.

## Cell Phone Policy and Procedures

As a reminder, Seaford UFSD is a cell phone free district during the instructional day as per NYS law. We previously shared information about this practice during the summer as did Dr. Pecora. To remind everyone, students are expected to keep all internet enabled devices, which include cell phones, smart watches, and AirPods, in their lockers throughout the day. Students in violation of this will face disciplinary consequences. This is an important practice to ensure that our students are concentrating on their academic progress throughout the day and we appreciate your support in upholding this policy.

## **Parent Square, Student Square & Infinite Campus Parent Portal**

Parent Square and Student Square continue to be our primary means of communication. All families and students have access to these platforms, and we encourage you to reach out to our technology department with any questions about accessing them if you need help. The phone number is 516-592-4390. The easiest way to contact teachers, guidance counselors, or administrators is through Parent Square.

We look forward to a great year together, go **Vikings!**

Best, Dr. Morey & Mr. Polite



