

JANUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER

A MESSAGE FROM MR. ACCARDI



IMPORTANT DATES

- MONDAY, 2/2
 - END OF MARKING PERIOD 2
 - SPRING SPORTS REGISTRATION BEGINS
- TUESDAY, 2/3
 - MARKING PERIOD 3 AND SEMESTER 2 BEGIN
- FRIDAY, 2/6
 - WINTER SOCIAL
- MONDAY, 2/16
 - SCHOOL CLOSED - PRESIDENT'S DAY
- TUESDAY, 2/17
 - SCHOOL CLOSED - STAFF IN-SERVICE

Dear UMS Families,

I hope this message finds you warm during what has been a very cold and snowy January. This month has been filled with student assemblies, performances, academic competitions, and the busy conclusion of Marking Period 2.

As we close out the month, I would like to share some important messages that our staff has consistently reinforced with students. Ms. Moore, our teachers, counselors, and I have spent time reminding students of their role as members of our UMS community. Earlier this month, Ms. Moore and I led grade-level flex assemblies focused on the responsibility all students have in maintaining a safe, fun, and engaging learning environment for everyone.

During these conversations, we emphasized the following key reminders:

Respect for Others

Students were reminded to treat peers and staff with respect at all times. We discussed the power of words—both spoken and written—and how they can sometimes cross a line and affect individuals and our school community.

Taking Care of Our School Building

We addressed the importance of respecting our shared spaces. Over the past few weeks, we have seen an increase in vandalism in bathrooms and hallways.

Keeping Hands to Ourselves

Staff members have observed an increase in pushing and shoving in hallways. While students often describe this behavior as “just joking,” we reinforced that this behavior can cause harm or be perceived as aggression by others.

Being Proactive and Looking Out for One Another

Students were encouraged to be active, responsible members of our community by reporting anything that doesn't look or sound right to a trusted adult. We stressed that speaking up helps ensure everyone receives the support they need.

As your child's principal, I truly appreciate your partnership. I encourage you to have a conversation with your child about these topics, review the [Student Handbook](#) together, and reinforce the importance of being a positive and respectful member of our school community.

Thank you for your continued support.

With C.A.R.E.
-Mr. Accardi



Great Work!



SCIENCE OLYMPIAD



Congratulations to the UMS Science Olympiad team for their 2nd place finish at the regional tournament. They are now headed to the State competition in March!



AMC 10



In the fall, 58 UMS students participated in the American Math Competition (AMC) 10. This is a competitive national math competition that challenges students with creative problem-solving and critical thinking questions.

Congratulations to all students who participated, and an extra congratulations to our school's top finishers: Anya Guduri in 3rd place, Ashkan Syed in 2nd place, and Ray Chakraborty in 1st place! Great job representing our school!



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More Great Work!



SPELLING BEE

Congratulations to Adhvitha Suresh, our Upper Middle School Spelling Bee champion! After an incredible competition that went through all 400 Scripps words, Adhvitha emerged victorious in an intense final round. We're so proud of all ten finalists who demonstrated impressive skill, preparation, and poise throughout the competition. Their hard work and dedication truly shone, and we look forward to cheering on Adhvitha at the Regional Bee on March 8th at the South Orange Performing Arts Center!



2025 VFW PATRIOTS' PEN



Congratulations to Adam Ding, who was recognized by the Hillsborough Memorial VFW Post #8371 for his participation in the VFW National Scholarship Essay Program. This year's (2025) "Patriots' Pen (PP)" theme encouraged students to consider the question: "How Are You Showing Patriotism and Support for Our Country?"

COUGARCAST: VOICES OF UMS

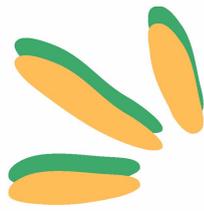
TUNE IN TO OUR PODCAST SERIES.
EACH MONTH MR. ACCARDI AND MS. MOORE WILL BE SHARING
AN EPISODE TO ACCOMPANY OUR NEWSLETTER.

CLICK HERE TO LISTEN



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REMINDERS



SPRING SPORTS

UMS offers Baseball, Softball, Lacrosse (Boys & Girls), and Track & Field (Boys & Girls) in the spring season. Please be advised that the nurse and the athletic department must clear athletes to participate. Registration for UMS spring sports will open on Monday, February 2. For more information, please use this link: [2025-26 MHS/UMS Spring Sports Registration Information](#)

EMERGENCY CLOSING CONTINGENCY DAY 1

Due to our snow day on Monday, January 26th, school will now be in session on Tuesday, May 26th.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Students must power down and store their phones, earbuds, and smartwatches in their lockers from 8:15 am-3:05 pm. Any communication from home can be directed to our Main Office.

STUDENT ID CARDS

New ID cards were distributed to students on December 2nd. Students must have their IDs and team-color lanyards visible at all times. Replacement IDs, lanyards, and cases can be ordered through our school website.

CLICK HERE FOR [DRESS CODE](#) REMINDERS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19 **DISTRICT-WIDE PRINCIPAL'S ROUNDTABLE**



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