



NEW PALTZ MIDDLE SCHOOL



“STAR - Success Through Attitude and Responsibility”

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Mrs. Ann Sheldon
Principal

August 2021

Dear Middle School Parents and Students:

The summer always seems to go so quickly. I hope you had a chance to relax and enjoy some quality family time. We look forward to having students back in our halls bringing our school back to life after a quiet summer.

All signs point to another incredible and productive school year. Our skilled and devoted staff members are already planning and preparing for your child(ren). Our enthusiastic office team is ordering needed materials and updating student files. Our hard working and conscientious custodians have spent the entire summer working on the facility. And, our much appreciated PTA is gearing up to welcome families, provide volunteer opportunities, and offer other exciting events and programs. We are indeed a joyous and caring community with the common goals of nurturing responsible, caring students and promoting high-level learning.

At this time, all students and staff will be required to wear facemasks at all times in the building. When outside for gym and recess, facemasks are not required. Please refer to the NPCSD Reopening Guide for more specific information. This guide will be sent to you as well as posted on the website.

We will be returning to a nine period day, which will begin with a homeroom. Our homerooms are set up with 6th, 7th and 8th graders in small groups. During homeroom, the morning announcements will take place. It is very important for your child to hear the morning announcements, as this is how we provide information to the members of our school community. Homeroom is also the place we distribute handouts and go over important school information as well as check in with the students. This is a place for your child to connect in to our school community in a small group with an adult who works in our building and with other students from different grade levels. Every morning, students will go to their assigned homeroom for attendance, announcements and connection. Our goal is to have all students feel connected and included in our community.

We have been getting the school ready for opening day, **Wednesday, September 8, 2021**. Students traveling by bus will arrive at 7:35 am; students who walk can enter the school at 7:35 am. Grade 6 students will walk to the auditorium, while grades 7 and 8 will report to, and remain in, the gymnasium until 7:51 am, when all students will report to their assigned homeroom for attendance and morning announcements. Homeroom begins at 7:55 and the school day will conclude at 2:35 pm.

All students will receive a copy of the Middle School Assignment Book on the first day of school. The assignment book is an important communication tool connecting school and home. Students will use this book throughout the school year, as both an assignment book and as a hall pass. If you need to speak directly to a teacher, or wish to get details on a specific assignment, please call the office and we will connect you to the proper place to get the information (256-4200). In addition, teachers have developed websites with daily assignments, calendars and other valuable class information; please feel free to use this online resource. You can also log on to the parent portal to keep track of your child's

attendance, grades, and progress. If you need help logging onto the parent portal, please contact us and we will be happy to assist you. Here are some instructions as well.

Creating an account on the school portal:

Parents and students can access grades, assignment information, and attendance through Parent Portal.

1. *Parents can access the Parent Portal website to create an account. You will need your child's **Access ID** (their student ID # followed by "G" ex: 1234G) and their **Access Password** (their date of birth MM/DD/YYYY).*

The beginning of the school year often sets the tone for what is to follow. With that in mind, we request that students and parents review and sign off on the items in the Middle School Handbook, which is posted on the parent portal. Please discuss appropriate behavior along with coping strategies for dealing with any problems that may arise during the school year.

Please note your child's homeroom assignment (room number) and teacher at the top of this letter. Your child will report to their homeroom at 7:55 am on **Wednesday, September 8, 2021**. Schedules and other pertinent information will be distributed and explained by the teacher in charge of the homeroom class.

A few final pieces of information:

1. There will **not** be any hall locker usage this year by students
2. **Arrival and Drop-off**
Students can be dropped off beginning at 7:35 am. No student will be allowed to enter the building prior to 7:35 am. Students being dropped off should only use the ramp door for entry. At dismissal time, students who are picked up are released through the front. Parents can wait in the designated drop off zones.
Bus drop off:
Students who arrive by bus will enter the building through the courtyard using the doors by the student support center. The bus line up will occur on Lincoln Place as it has in the past.
3. **Breakfast and lunch:**
NPCSD is providing all students with free lunch and breakfast for the current school year, regardless of eligibility or income. Breakfast will be available for the students in the cafeteria for students to go to before homeroom. Lunch will be served in the cafeteria.
4. A correspondence with a link to the student packet will be emailed shortly, along with a link to update your emergency information sheet. This information should be updated no later than, **Thursday, September 23, 2021. Please make sure you go over the complete packet and update all pertinent information.**
5. A Student Health Examination Form has been enclosed for Grade 7 only. Please complete and return this form to the Middle School nurse, no later than **Thursday, September 23, 2021**.
6. If your child still owes books, please come to the Main Office to take care of that obligation, prior to the opening of school.

I am so delighted that you are part of our amazing learning community. I welcome and value your positive energy and dedication to excellence in education, and I look forward to working with you and your children. It remains an honor and a privilege to serve as the Middle School principal. Please stop by and say hello sometime. Together, I know we will make this school year....awesome!!

Warmest Regards,

Mrs. Ann Sheldon
Principal



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