

Dear Students, Parents & Guardians,

It is almost time for our official welcome back to school! I hope you are all relaxing and enjoying these last few days of fun and sun before the exciting work of the school year begins on Wednesday, August 31, 2016.

We will start our day right on time at 7:40 a.m. Students who arrive to the building before this time (*please no earlier than 7:00 a.m.*) should proceed to the dining hall. I will be there answering questions and guiding our sixth graders and students who are new to the building. At 7:40, students will be dismissed to their respective grade-level pods. Teachers will meet students in the pod.

SCHEDULES:

Schedules for Grades 7 and 8 students will be available in Aspen on Monday. Grade 6 students will receive their schedules on the first day of school and will be receiving information early in the school year about how to access our online student information system, Aspen. Please note that schedule changes during the first week of school are quite typical as we balance sections and correct minor errors. Please keep this in mind should a schedule change be required.

The bell schedule has changed from last year. For 2016-17, we have a six-day, rotating, waterfall schedule with a drop. E Block does not rotate or drop. If that last sentence reads like a foreign language to you, just ask your students. They catch on quickly!

LUNCH AND RECESS:

Grade 6 lunch is at 10:30. Grades 7 and 8 lunch is at 11:00. Students have a half hour to eat and enjoy some exercise and sunshine on days when weather permits. Grade 7 students will eat first and then have recess. Grade 8 students will have recess before eating.

NEW FACULTY AND STAFF:

We are excited to welcome several new members to our team this year!

- Kathy Pennover Middle School Adjustment Counselor
- Shelby Palafox Grade 8 Math
- Kim Provost Special Education Teacher
- Christine Sullivan Special Education Teacher
- Erin Kenaga Special Education Teacher
- Michelle Chun, ELL Teacher
- Joanne Needham Interventionist
- Alex Elia Teaching Assistant
- Molly Saunders Teaching Assistant
- Mia Muzio Teaching Assistant
- Samantha Webb Teaching Assistant
- Anne Gesauldi Recess Monitor

Please visit our website (*see link below*) to view faculty & staff bios. Please note - this new site is a work in progress. Any missing or incorrect information will be updated within the next few weeks.

OPEN HOUSE:

Middle School Open House will be on $\underline{Wednesday}$, $\underline{September 14, 2016: 6:00 - 8:00 p.m}$. Further updates are forthcoming.

STAY CONNECTED AND INFORMED (Click on the links below):







In addition to our website and social media, you will receive <u>weekly newsletters</u> beginning the <u>week of September</u> 5, 2016.

SCHOOL COUNCIL:

In early September, we will be looking for parents who are interested in joining our Middle School Council. Stay tuned for information, or send an email to Mrs. Maino (see the website for contact information) in advance if you would like to be considered.

PARENTS OF MANCHESTER ESSEX MIDDLE SCHOOL (PMEMS):

We have an amazing parent group that helps in countless ways! Visit our website for PTO Meeting Dates: HERE

COFFEE WITH THE PRINCIPAL:

Meet with Mrs. Maino once a month from 9:00 - 9:30 a.m. to informally discuss all things Middle School! Visit our website under "Dates to Remember" for updates on Coffee with the Principal. <u>HERE</u>

If you are unable to make these dates and would like to meet with Mrs. Maino at another time, please call or send an email to request an appointment.

On behalf of the entire Manchester Essex Regional Middle School team, I extend this warm welcome. We look forward to a rewarding 2016-17.

See you soon!

Mrs. Maino & the Manchester Essex Regional Middle School Team