



Patrick Mussolini, Principal
Anne Pecunia, Assistant Principal

AUGUST 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I trust you are enjoying this beautiful summer. Hopefully it has been fun and restful so far.

The middle school has been extremely busy this summer with several major construction projects happening at once. They are all on schedule and we will be ready for the first day of school, September 6th.

We are very excited to welcome the following new members of our faculty:

Noah Appleton	Mathematics
Jessica McCrane	Spanish Lang. Acquisition
Janell Escobar	School Psychologist

Throughout the school year we will communicate with you through the use of emails. This includes our “Weekly Reminders” every Friday. For this reason, **it is critical that our families have accurate up-to-date email addresses and phone numbers on file.** If the address on file is changed at any time during the year, please be sure to update it via the Parent Portal.

Listed below are the three levels of email communication that we will use:

- Building-based email by grade level
- Building-based email to all grade levels
- District-based School Messenger Alert

You will receive a School Messenger Alert to notify you when student schedules will be available on the Parent Portal.

I hope you enjoy these remaining days of summer and are looking forward to a great school year. The entire faculty and staff are looking forward to welcoming your children back. We are fortunate to be working with such amazing children and their families.

Patrick Mussolini
Principal

Back-to-School Night!

September 22, 2022

6th Grade Meet and Greet

Sixth grade students are invited to attend a “Meet and Greet” on Monday, August 29th. During this time, students will assemble in the Auditorium for a brief welcome and will then proceed upstairs to walk through their schedule and set up their lockers.

The schedule for the orientation is as follows:

Last Name: A – K
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Last Name: L – Z
11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Lunch/ Recess

Students' lunch periods are divided between lunch and recess. Students visit the Commons (cafeteria) to eat/purchase food during their grade level lunch period and can also purchase breakfast before the start of the school day (8:12 a.m.). However, students are not permitted to go to the Commons during class or in-between classes. No food deliveries are allowed from restaurants, delis, coffee shops, etc. No food is allowed outside the Commons and only water is allowed in the classrooms.

Cell Phones

Students in grades 6 through 8 have "phone-free" days while they are in school. During school hours (8:12 a.m. - 3:20 p.m.) cell phones and other personal electronics must be turned off in the students' bags or left at home. While students may bring their phones to school for use before and after the school day, they are not permitted to use phones during lunch and recess. This policy is a result of our district wide focus on mindfulness and our commitment to social and emotional learning. If you need to contact your child in an emergency during school hours, our office staff is more than happy to help deliver any important message. Phones, Airpods, etc. seen out during the school day will be confiscated until the end of the day. Repeat offenders may receive a lunch detention or further consequences.

Lockers/Backpacks

Lockers will be available for all middle school students. Backpacks will not be allowed in the classrooms and should stay in the students' lockers. Students will be taught how to use locker stops so they only take what they need to class. Rolling backpacks are not permitted without explicit permission.

Arrival / Dismissal

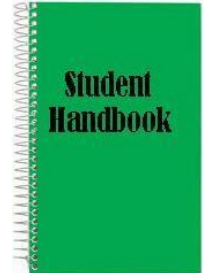
Middle school students will enter/ exit through the Middle School front doors. Drop off and pick up must happen in front of the Middle School only. This is for student safety. Please do not stop or drop off in front of the High School. Please note, lateness may result in lunch detention or further consequences.

Chromebooks

All students are issued a Chromebook and charger. While it is not the only tool used in the classroom, the Chromebook is an integral part of the teachers' pedagogy. It is the students' responsibility to bring their Chromebook to school every day, fully charged. Please remind your child that Chromebooks are to be used for academic purposes only.

Student Handbook

The Dobbs Ferry Middle School Student Handbook can be found on our middle school website. If you do not have access to a computer, hardcopies are available in the Middle School Main Office. The purpose of this handbook is to help guide students and their families through their middle school years. It is designed to be "user friendly" and answer many questions that middle school students and their families have about procedures, rules, regulations, and expectations. We ask that you take time to review the information in this handbook with your child and acknowledge with your signatures on the "Student Handbook Acknowledgement Form" on the Parent Portal.



Assignment Pad / Student Agenda

While students' primarily use Google Classroom to stay up to date with their assignments and classwork, student agendas will be distributed as an additional organization tool.



The student agenda will be handed out to students at the beginning of the school year. This agenda will be provided by the school for each student. However, the cost to replace a lost agenda is \$5.00.

Parent Portal and E-Gradebook

All academic updates will be shared digitally, through the use of the Parent Portal. You will have access to your child's progress reports and report cards, as well as the ability to check your child's progress using the E-Gradebook feature. This feature will be updated approximately every two weeks by your child's teachers. Other important information available on the Parent Portal includes attendance, tardiness, and immunizations.

To register or access the Parent Portal go to:

<https://esdparentportal.lhric.org>

or

<http://www.dfsd.org>
(Click on Parent Portal button)

If you need assistance with accessing the Parent Portal, please email Amber Klebanoff at parentportal@dfs.org

Google Classroom Guardian Summaries

At the beginning of the school year you will receive an invite to receive Guardian Summaries for your child's Google Classroom. These summaries will give you insight on what homework was assigned, and what projects are still outstanding.

If you have any trouble in receiving these updates or wish to change the frequency of these updates, please go to the link below:

<https://classroom.google.com/gs>

Once you are there, click on the arrow drop-down menu next to your child. You can then select a different option: Daily, Weekly, or No Summaries.

The system will adjust automatically.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

August

- 29 6th Grade Meet and Greet
A – K 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.
L – Z 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

September

- 6 Welcome Back! - First Day of School
8 Board of Education Meeting
13 Board of Education Meeting
20 Board of Education Meeting
22 MS Back-to-School Night
23 Middle School Picture Day
26-27 **SCHOOLS CLOSED – Rosh Hashanah**

October

- 3 Stomp Out Bullying! – **Blue Shirt Day**
4 Board of Education Meeting
5 **SCHOOLS CLOSED – Yom Kippur**
7 **Mid-Point of Qtr.1 – Progress Reports**
10 **SCHOOLS CLOSED – Columbus / Indigenous Peoples' Day**
11 Board of Education Meeting
18 Board of Education Meeting
19 **Early Dismissal (11:00 am)**
21 Middle School Activity Night
25 Board of Education Meeting
28 Middle School Halloween Extravaganza

November

- 1 Board of Education Meeting
2 **MS Parent/ Teacher Conferences 4-8pm**
6 Daylight Savings Time Ends
8 **Schools Closed for Students – Sup. Conference Day**
(K – 12 Parent / Teacher Conferences)
Board of Education Meeting
10 **1st Quarter Ends**
11 **SCHOOLS CLOSED – Veterans' Day**
15 Board of Education Meeting
18 Middle School Musical (7:00pm)
19 Middle School Musical (1:00pm, 7:00pm)
23 Emergency Evacuation Drill
(11:00am Early Dismissal)
24-25 **SCHOOLS CLOSED – Thanksgiving**

Important Contact Information

Dial: 914-693-7640 (then extension)

Middle School Office

Patrick Mussolini, Principal
Ext. 3040 (to secretary)

Anne Pecunia, Assistant Principal
Ext. 3020 (to secretary)

Lindsay Hutchinson, Secretary to Principal
Ext. 3040

Valarie McCoy, Office Assistant
Ext. 3020

Nurse's Office

Cara de Leon - Ext. 3046

Attendance Office

Alissa Salerno - Ext. 3073

Guidance Office

Denise Cunningham – Secretary MS
Counseling Office
Ext. 3014 (to secretary)

Janell Escobar, School Psychologist
Ext. 3014 (to secretary)

Sandra Hacker, Counselor
Grade 7
Ext. 3017

Sheila Kusi-Asare
Social Worker
Ext. 3014 (to secretary)

Rose Mittan, Counselor
Grade 6 & 8
Ext. 3014 (to secretary)

Dobbs Ferry Middle School

PICTURE DAY

Friday, September 23rd

