



Patrick Mussolini, Principal  
Anne Pecunia, Assistant Principal

AUGUST 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians,

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

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

|                            |                    |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Juliana Caputo             | SAS Counselor      |
| Nathalie Del Vecchio       | Special Education  |
| Michael Jaros              | Guidance Counselor |
| Jennifer Pampillanio-Duran | Mathematics        |
| Jennifer Pirraglia         | Psychologist       |

Throughout the school year we will communicate with you through the use of emails. This includes our “Eagles Flyer” 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 on August 23<sup>th</sup>.

I hope you enjoy these remaining days of summer. 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 12, 2024**

### **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Walk Through/ Locker Set Up**

Sixth grade students are invited to attend a “Walk Through” on Monday, August 26<sup>th</sup> (A-K) and Tuesday, August 27<sup>th</sup> (L-Z). During this time, students will assemble in the Commons (cafeteria) for a brief welcome and will then proceed upstairs to walk through their schedule, set up their lockers, and practice their locker combination. Student ambassadors will be there to help you along the way.

The schedule for the orientation is as follows:

**August 26<sup>th</sup> Last Name: A – K**  
**1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

**August 27<sup>th</sup> Last Name: L – Z**  
**1:00 p.m. – 2:00 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" school days. 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, lockers or left at home. 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, headphones, smart watches, etc. being used 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. Students may use a cinch sac to carry their belongings from class to class.

## Arrival / Dismissal

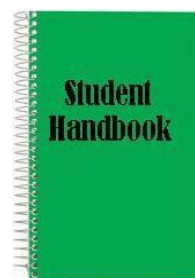
Students will enter/ exit through the Middle School front doors. Doors open at 7:50am. Drop off and pick up must happen in front of the Middle School only. This is for student safety. Please do not stop/drop off in front of the High School.

## 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. The district offers Chromebook insurance that we encourage you to take advantage of. Please see page 51 in the Student Handbook for more information.

## 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.



## Google Classroom / Student Agenda

Students use Google Classroom to track and stay up to date with their assignments and classwork.

Student agendas will be distributed to **6<sup>th</sup> grade students only** as an additional organization tool. These will be handed out at the beginning of the school year.



If your 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grader feels a student agenda would be useful to them, they can pick up a student agenda in

the main office. Supplies are limited however, it will be first come, first serve, while supplies last.

## **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](mailto: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**

- 26 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Walk Through/ Locker Set Up  
A – K 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.
- 27 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Walk Through/ Locker Set Up  
L – Z 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

### **September**

- 3 Welcome Back! - First Day of School
- 10 Board of Education Meeting
- 12 MS Back-to-School Night
- 13 Middle School Picture Day
- 17 Board of Education Meeting
- 24 Board of Education Meeting

### **October**

- 2 **Mid-Point of Qtr.1 – Progress Reports**
- 3-4 **SCHOOL CLOSED - Rosh Hashanah**
- 7 Stomp Out Bullying! – **Blue Shirt Day**
- 8 Board of Education Meeting
- 14 **SCHOOLS CLOSED – Columbus / Indigenous Peoples' Day**
- 16 **Early Dismissal (11:00 am)**
- 22 Board of Education Meeting
- 31 Middle School Halloween Extravaganza

### **November**

- 3 Daylight Savings Time Ends
- 7 **Schools Closed for Students – Sup. Conference Day**  
**(K – 12 Parent / Teacher Conferences)**
- 6 **MS Parent/ Teacher Conferences**  
**4:30-8:30pm**
- 8 **1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Ends**
- 11 **SCHOOLS CLOSED –Veterans' Day**
- 12 Board of Education Meeting
- 15 Middle School Musical (7:00pm)
- 16 Middle School Musical (1:00pm, 7:00pm)
- 21 Middle School Principal's Chat
- 27 Emergency Evacuation Drill  
(11:00am Early Dismissal)
- 28-29 **SCHOOLS CLOSED – Thanksgiving**
- 26 Board of Education Meeting

## **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

Raquela Zimbaldi, Office Assistant  
Ext. 3020

### **Nurse's Office**

Cara de Leon - Ext. 3046

### **Attendance Office**

Alissa Salerno - Ext. 3073

### **Student Support Services**

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

Sandra Hacker, Counselor  
Grades 6 & 7  
Ext. 3017

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

Michael Jaros, Counselor  
Grade 6 & 8  
Ext. 3014 (to secretary)

Jennifer Pirraglia, School Psychologist  
Ext. 3014 (to secretary)

## **Dobbs Ferry Middle School**

# **PICTURE DAY**

**Friday, September 13<sup>th</sup>**

