

## News Release

### Dobbs Ferry Middle School Guidance Department Hosts Annual Career Days For 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students

**Dobbs Ferry, N.Y. April 20, 2016**—An important part of the career development program in Dobbs Ferry Middle School is getting students to start thinking about college and career readiness early on. The Middle School's **annual Career Days kick off this year with the 6<sup>th</sup> grade on April 21<sup>st</sup>, followed by the 8<sup>th</sup> grade on May 6<sup>th</sup> and the 7<sup>th</sup> grade on June 8<sup>th</sup>.** Each grade will focus on a related group of job possibilities with numerous parents from the community volunteering to talk about their own career paths.

**The 6<sup>th</sup> grade theme is the Arts.** Students will hear from professionals in multiple fields all within the arts domain. They include an art historian, drummer, photographer, producer, television reporter and artistic director. "Five out of the six presenters are parents of present 6<sup>th</sup> graders," said counselor Sandra Hacker. "The kids are so excited to have their mom or dad participate in this school-wide event."

In the 7<sup>th</sup> grade, the goal is to have the students begin to look at their individual strengths, interests and personalities. **The 7<sup>th</sup> grade Career Day will focus on our exploratory classes which includes STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math).** Those presenters include a doctor, an engineer, an electrician, a financial advisor, a scientist and a painter. "Even at this age, it is important to be exposed to many different careers and to point out that they use similar skills that might be math-related such as the financial advisor, engineer and electrician," said Ms. Hacker.

Finally, the **8<sup>th</sup> grade Career Day will look at a number of different fields based on student interest.** Using Naviance, an online college and career planning tool, students indicate their top three career interests. Each student is then "matched" with speakers that represent their choices and are given an individual schedule. All of the students will attend an opening ceremony which includes a keynote speaker, followed by four small group presentations. "Students hear about the speakers' career paths and educational backgrounds, job tasks and responsibilities," said counselor Rose Mittan. "The real take-away is learning about the process of looking for a career and developing the self-awareness to find what you are interested in and might want to pursue. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade speakers include a musician, marketing executive, attorney, photographer, electrical engineer/entrepreneur, real estate broker, pediatrician, police officer, chef/restaurant owner and a child psychologist.

Ms. Hacker and Ms. Mittan both emphasized, "It's so important for students to be exposed early to different career opportunities as it helps them make informed decisions. At this age, the sky's the limit. It's all about finding their passion."

The 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Career Day speakers are:

- Donna Assumma - Vice President, **ABC National Television Sales**
- Ed Bettinelli - Musician, **Art of Drumming**
- Michael Blatter - Founder and CEO, **Mirrorball Marketing Agency**
- Evan Charkes - Associate General Counsel and Managing Director, **Bank of America**
- Mary Jane Farnsworth - Photographer, **Mary Jane Photography**
- Christopher Giampaolo - Entrepreneur, **Closet Creations, Inc.**
- Ed Hardesty - Associate Broker, **Douglas Elliman Real Estate**
- Katherine Hough, MD, FAAP - Pediatrician, **Pediatrics on Hudson**
- Justin Kamke - Police Officer, **Dobbs Ferry Police Department**
- Matthew Kay - Chef and Restaurateur, **Cedar Street Grill**
- Kristin Perry, Psy.D - Licensed Psychologist, **Private Practice and Co-Founder of InParentis**

The 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Career Day speakers are:

- Ken Korzeniowski- Railroad Electrical Worker, **Metro North Railroad**
- Myrosia Dragan- Structural Engineer, **WSP/Parsons**
- Lawrence R. Lustig, MD  
Howard W. Smith Professor and Chair  
Department of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery  
**Columbia University Medical Center & New York Presbyterian Hospital**
- Jerry Kubina- Artist
- Richard Goodwin, PhD - Principle Researcher, **IBM Research**

The 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Career Day speakers are:

- Marcus Solis - Reporter , **WABC-TV**
- Mary Jane Farnsworth - Photographer, **Mary Jane Photography**
- Joseph Farnsworth - Jazz Drummer
- Tom Sellitti - Television Writer/Producer, **Apostle Pictures**
- G. Max Bernheimer - International Department Head, Antiquities, **Christie's**
- Debralyn Press - Artistic Director, **Sleepy Hollow Performing Arts Center**

The Dobbs Ferry Middle School Guidance Department would like to thank all of the Career Day volunteers for making these events so special and educational for the students.

# # #

**For more information, please contact:**

Public Information Officer, Elizabeth Hausman (914) 693-1500 x3013