

DRIVER MIDDLE SCHOOL

Marcellus Central School District

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Dedicated and Motivated to Succeed

August 2018

Dear DMS Students and Parents,

We are very excited to welcome you back to school in just a few weeks! We look forward to celebrate the learning, opportunities and successes that you will experience this year! This is a lengthy letter but please take the time to read through all the information provided as it is meant to help you get a solid start to the school year. Our **first day** of school is Tuesday, September 4th.

The student school day for this year remains the same:

7:40-2:21 Grades 7-8 (homeroom begins at 7:48) in the Senior High School building

8:50-3:20 Grades 5-6 (homeroom begins at 9:00) in the Driver Middle School building

As part of our normal routine, all students who walk to school or who are dropped off should report to the cafeteria to sign-in and remain there until the first bell rings at 7:40 (for 7/8) or 8:50 (for 5-6). Students in grades 7-8 should not arrive to school before 7:30. Due to supervision concerns especially since we are sharing the building with the high school, it is important that 5th and 6th grade students do not arrive to school prior to 8:40 except for band/chorus or a previously arranged appointment. The drop-off and pick-up location for 5th and 6th grade students who are driven to school is the front circle off Reed Parkway.

In the DMS building, the office for grades 5 and 6 is located across the hall from the high school main office. The single point of entry is off of Reed Parkway. At the senior high school building, the single point of entry is at the front of the building. There will be reception in the main lobby to direct you to the main office for grades 7 and 8. Ms. O'Mara and Mrs. Sharlow will be spending time in both buildings throughout the week. You may contact either one of us by calling the main middle school number which remains the same: 315-673-6200.

We offer breakfast for students when they first arrive in the morning. Students may stop at the cafeteria on their way to homeroom and purchase breakfast. Students are allowed to take their breakfast to their classroom and eat while attendance is taken and class is getting settled. We encourage parents to put money on their child's MySchoolBucks account (www.myschoolbucks.com) to facilitate the purchase of breakfast and/or lunch.

Schooltool is an excellent way to keep up to date with student progress in the classroom. If you have not logged in to Schooltool in the past, you need to be sure we have an accurate email address on file. For assistance in creating an account in Schooltool please contact our counseling office. Students can continue to log in using their school network username and password. We have included in this mailing the **contact information** as it is listed in Schooltool. Please verify and make any changes that need to be made and return the form to us in the main office if you make any changes. Use the instructions on the reverse side of that form as your guide.

All important dates are listed on our school calendar and are displayed on our school website main page. The middle school webpage frequently posts information about things happening here at school. Additionally, we have a **DMS Blog** that highlights events and activities. You can access our blog through the Driver Middle School home page.

7th grade orientation is scheduled for August 28th from 10:00-11:00 in the senior high school building. Additionally, the senior high school building will be open for 8th graders to visit and run through their schedule on August 28th from 12:00-1:00.

We will hold a **Welcome Back to School Information night** for students in **grades 5 and 6** on the 29th of August beginning at 6:00 p.m. This will be an opportunity to meet the teacher, see the classroom and receive information about the school year.

Any student who intends to **play a fall sport** must complete all athletic forms before his/her first practice. Modified football begins on August 27th all other sports begin on the first day of school. All forms and registration should be completed online from our district webpage. To access the online registration, click on "Athletics" from our district homepage. If you have not had a physical within the last year, you will need to have a physical in order to be eligible to play. Please note that all forms need to be checked by the nurse and athletic director.

On the Middle School website we have also provided a list of **extra-curricular activities** for students in grades 7 and 8. We encourage students to think about getting involved in something to explore their interests or share their talents. Being connected in school helps to expand students' character and well-roundedness.

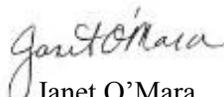
Frequently, members of the district write articles to highlight and promote activities at each school. These articles could be published in our DMS Blog, our district newsletter that is sent home in the mail, on our district website and could potentially be included in local newspapers. If you **DO NOT** want your child's picture published in any district publication either in newsprint or on the web, please go to our middle school website and complete the form that is linked to: **Do Not Publish Student Photos Request 2018-2019**. This link is located under the School Supply Lists. If you do not have access to the Internet and would like to request photos not be published, please call the office.

In this mailing and during the first few days of school we will be sharing multiple pieces of information. If you have any questions about this information please feel free to contact us. Also on the first day, students will receive their agendas which are a great tool for keeping track of work that needs to be completed. Our student handbook is included at the beginning of the agenda and is posted on our webpage as well. Please take time to review the handbook together.

We look forward to beginning another year with you and supporting you and your children while we experience the many things that middle school has to offer. Please do not hesitate throughout the year to make contact with us for any concerns, suggestions or questions you might have. We are always looking for ways to improve and having a parent and/or student perspective is always helpful. It is important that we all work together to create a great year for your child!

We hope you enjoy the rest of your summer. See you in a few weeks!

Sincerely,


Janet O'Mara
DMS Principal


Jean Sharlow
Assistant Principal