



Michael J. Petrides School

Middle School Newsletter



GRADE 7

APRIL 2019

Working Together for Student Success

Dear Middle School Parents,

As the saying goes “no winter lasts forever; no spring skips its turn.” I am anxiously waiting for the warm weather to return!

I am very proud of all the students who took advantage of our Wednesday afternoon and evening Test Prep Academy. Classes were full with children eager and happy to be here! Regents Test Prep Academy will begin in May. More detailed information will be forthcoming.

Our New York State ELA Assessment is scheduled for Tuesday, April 2, 2019 and Wednesday, April 3, 2019. I encourage all students to get a good night’s sleep prior to test days, enjoy a healthy breakfast and come to school with sharpened number two pencils. **Also, don’t forget to wear your glasses, if needed** and RELAX. As our T-shirts say, KEEP CALM AND PANTHER ON!! Your child’s schedule will change slightly during testing days. On exam days (stated above) they will report to their official class teacher for period 1. They will be dismissed from that room at the conclusion of their testing. They will then proceed to regularly scheduled classes.

The New York State Math Assessment is scheduled for Wednesday, May 1, 2019 and Thursday, May 2, 2019.

The end of the third marking period is **April 11, 2019**.

I am very pleased with the number of students who chose to become members of our National Junior Honor Society. Students will be notified of their acceptance on **April 5, 2019**. Our ceremony will be held on **Thursday, April 18, 2019** at 9:30 am. Parents and families of continuing and newly inducted NJHS members are invited to attend.

Our PAL @ Petrides Program is collaborating with our kitchen staff to present a parent engagement activity on **Wednesday, April 10, 2019** at 9:00 am until 9:40 am. You will be sampling the healthy snacks offered to your children during PAL, discussing the cooking program and learning about healthy snack options. Please sign in at the B building main desk upon your arrival.

Our seventh grade students will be participating in a Socratic Seminar on **April 16, 2019** according to the following schedule and you are invited to attend.

Class 720 8:15 am – 8:45 am
Class 721 10:30 am – 11:00 am
Class 722 9:45 am – 10:15 am

Our eighth grade students will be participating in a Rat Dissection Lab on **April 30, 2019 and May 1, 2019** according to the following schedule and you are invited to attend.

Class 820 8:15 – 9:30 am – May 1st
Class 821 1:00 – 2:20 pm – April 30th
Class 822 8:15 – 9:30 am – April 30th

Our eighth grade students will have an assembly on **April 16, 2019**. The presentation will be “Holocaust Survivor’s Story Assembly with Shira Stoll.”

Preparations for end of year ceremonies and celebrations are well underway. The eighth grade end of year letter outlining dates and costs is attached to this newsletter. Along with the 8th grade end of year letter is a behavior contract. This contract will be reviewed with your child at school. You should go over this contract at home and both you and your child must sign it. The first payment for 8th grade activities is due on **April 11, 2019**.

Please take note that spring recess starts on **Friday, April 19, 2019**. Students return to school on **Monday, April 29, 2019**. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at 718.815.0186 extension 22171 or BSouffrin@schools.nyc.gov.

Sincerely,

BettyAnn Souffrin

What topics will the students learn today?

ELA – In April the students will begin writing a research paper. They will go through the first few steps in the writing process, including brainstorming, narrowing down a topic, gathering sources, close reading and annotating. We will also begin our next novel, *A Day of Tears* by Julius Lester.

Math – During the month of April the students will review all the skills learned this year in preparation for the upcoming NYS Math Exam on May 1st and 2nd.

Science – Students are working in BIOME EXPERT FOCUS GROUPS as they research, discuss, question and prepare to teach the whole class about their assigned Biome. Together with their team members, students create world biome maps, species classification cards, informational posters, endangered species records, 3D sculptures, labeled biome models of biotic and abiotic factors unique to their area of study and other student generated presentation projects.

Social Studies – This month our Social Studies Scholars will explore Unit 4: A Nation Grows – Expansion and Reform 1800 - 1860. We will be studying the expansion of our country during the 1800s as well as the ideology of Manifest Destiny, including Jacksonian Democracy, Mexican American War, Industrial Technology, Gold Rush, Trail of Tear, Great Awakening and Women's Rights Movement.



Test/Projects Dates

Apr 2nd & 3rd - NY Statewide ELA Exam
 Apr 5th – ELA Homework #3
 Apr 11th – Science Exam: Biome exam with Maps
 Apr 12th – ELA Homework #4
 Apr 17th – ELA Homework #5
 Apr 17th - ELA Wordly Wise Lesson #7 Test
 Apr 30th – ELA Homework #6

Important Date

April 2nd & 3rd – NY State ELA Exam
 April 11th – End of Third Marking Period
 April 19th through 26th – No School Spring Recess



SS Scholars of the Month

Class 720: Eva Mazziotti
 Class 721: Maya Henri
 Class 722: Zoey Cheung



Math Student of the Month:

Class 720 Olivia Correa
 Class 721- Logan Mazziotti
 Class 722- Jordan Brown



REMINDERS!

Students are required to read 20-30 minutes nightly from either *Speak* or *The Dark is Rising*. Books must be completed by the end of April. Please join us for a Parents as Partners Socratic Seminar on Tuesday April 16th. Class 720 8:15-8:45am; Class 721 10:30-11:00am; Class 722 9:45-10:15am

Students should be checking Google Classroom every night for Social Studies homework and school-wide reminders. Videos are being posted as studying resources.

Students should come to Math class prepared with a pencil and a calculator every day.

The NYS Math Exam will be administered on May 1st and 2nd. Please come prepared with a sharpened No. 2 pencil and a scientific calculator (required for the Math exam).

The Staten Island Zoo is a wonderful living resource of a variety of Biomes that can be visited by students and their families. ENJOY!

In May, the 7th grade families will be invited to come visit our biomes. Date to be announced.

Required Reading

ELA – *Speak*, *The Dark is Rising*, *A Day of Tears*

Science – Students are encouraged to continue research outside of the classroom and to include additional relevant resources (websites, printed materials, science journals, etc.)



The Petrides School



2019

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1	2 NYS ELA Exam	3 NYS ELA Exam	4	5 ELA Homework #3	6
7	8	9	10 PAL Parent Engagement 9:00-9:40am	11 End of Third Marking Period Science Exam: Biome Maps	12 ELA Homework #4	13
14	15	16 Parents as Partners Socratic Seminar Class 720 8:15-8:45 Class 721 10:30-11:00 Class 722 9:45-10:15	17 ELA Homework #5 ELA Wordly Wise Lesson #7 Test	18 National Junior Honor Society Induction Ceremony 9:30am	19 No School Spring Recess	20
21	22 No School Spring Recess	23 No School Spring Recess	24 No School Spring Recess	25 No School Spring Recess	26 No School Spring Recess	27
28	29	30 ELA Homework #6				

Important Upcoming Dates:

- May 1st & 2nd – NY State Math Exam
- May 3rd – Report Cards Distributed
- May 9th – Street Fair: Parent Teachers Conferences
- May 27th – No School: Memorial Day