



The Michael J. Petrides School

Middle School Newsletter Grade 7

January 2019



“Write it on your heart that every day is the best day in the year.” Ralph Waldo Emerson

Dear Middle School Parents,

Welcome back and best wishes for a wonderful new year. I hope 2019 brings you nothing but good things. We certainly have some exciting things planned for January! Our middle school holiday celebrations were a big success. I thank you for your participation. The children had lots of fun.

The Middle School teachers have scheduled the following opportunities for you to visit and spend some time with us during the month of January. Please note the dates here:

Grade	Class	Date	Time/Period	Parents as Partners Workshop
5	520	January 22, 2019	1:00 – 1:30	Fiesta for Esperanza
5	521	January 22, 2019	9:00 – 9:30	Fiesta for Esperanza
5	522	January 22, 2019	11:15 – 11:45	Fiesta for Esperanza
7	720	January 23, 2019	9:45 – 10: 15	Rise Up! Hamilton
7	721	January 23, 2019	9:00 – 9:30	Rise Up! Hamilton
7	722	January 23, 2019	10:30 – 11:00	Rise Up! Hamilton

I am VERY EXCITED to announce that Habitat for Humanity Club will be working with middle school students for a talent show/lip sync competition on February 13, 2019. Our first Middle School **“Spotlight Fight”** will be fantastic. Students can perform in groups or individually. I want to encourage as many students as possible to participate. There will be multiple rehearsal opportunities for each grade level. Rehearsals are on the attached calendar. Acts must be limited to 2 minutes. More information will be forthcoming.

Our National Junior Honor Society students have been working hard this year. They have visited Clove Lakes Nursing Home, organized the Box Top campaign and did volunteer gift wrapping in the Staten Island Mall. National Junior Honor Society applications are available in my office. Students in grades 6, 7 and 8 are encouraged to apply. Students can earn community service hours during our PAL after school program. Ms. Calimano meets with 7th grade members on Tuesday each week. 8th grade members can meet every Wednesday and 6th grade students applying can meet on Fridays after school in Room B204. After school participation is not mandatory but those students who work on the community service projects after school go on trips to culminate each endeavor.

We are continuing our Box Top for Education collection. Attached you will find an easy collection sheet.

We are organizing a Middle School Bowling League for students in collaboration with our PAL after school program. Bowlers will meet at Rabs Country Lanes starting Tuesday, January 8, 2019. Bowling will be every Tuesday for eight weeks. Bowling is open to the first twenty students who would like to participate. The cost is \$60 charge. PAL and Petrides will offset the additional lane fees. Please see Mr. Keith Dragonetti or myself for an application.

Middle School Wrestling and Floor Hockey after school applications have also been distributed. Please contact me if your child would like to participate.

There are still seats available to students in grades 6 – 8 for our PAL after school program. We offer at least one hour per day of **tutoring** in Math and ELA by our licensed middle school teachers and one hour of **homework help** each day by our licensed middle school teachers. We also offer arts and crafts, STEM, cooking, track, robotics and much more! I strongly encourage all families to join PAL after school and take advantage of this free service provided. Please contact me directly to arrange the tutoring or homework help to meet your child’s needs.

As per our new school uniform policy, **ALL** students are required to wear uniforms every day to school. The uniform policy consists of light blue top and navy blue bottoms. Middle school students can wear Petrides Phys Ed uniforms on Phys Ed days. Uniforms can be ordered online at josephsportny@yahoo.com. **The telephone number is 347 – 768 – 2049.** Uniforms will be delivered to school and distributed by Mr. Michael Duffy. You may also purchase a school uniform at any local store that carries school uniform wear. It has come to my attention many students are wearing hooded sweatshirts over their uniforms. Only school logo sweatshirts or light blue sweatshirts are allowed

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me at any time at (718) 815-0186 extension 22171 or BSouffrin@schools.nyc.gov.

Sincerely,

BettyAnn Souffrin
Assistant Principal,
Middle School

What topics will the students learn today?

ELA - In January, students will begin by presenting their H2O projects and reflecting on their efforts. Next, we will work on their third major writing piece, a Response to Literature. Specifically, students will have to explain how setting (time, place and culture) shapes the characters in A Long Walk to Water. Our focus will be on citing text evidence to support our inferences and on using the steps in the writing process. We will spend the next few weeks reading poetry and learning poetic techniques, before diving into our next major novel, Lyddie.

Math – This month the students will solve real-life and mathematical problems using numerical and algebraic expressions and equations.

Science – This month the students will analyze how animals and plants adapt physically and behaviorally to the elements of their natural habitats. The interconnection between biotic and abiotic factors that exist within ecosystems to ensure balanced healthy biodiversity will be the focus of our investigations. Focus groups presented their Environmental Issues and will continue to serve as peer teachers for classmates on information relating to their topics.

Social Studies – This month our Social Studies Scholars will be concluding their study of the Road to the Independence with a study of the Declaration of Independence, key battles of the Revolution and Articles of Confederation. We will also begin our Hamilton the Musical song analysis group project investigating the people, events, and ideas of the time. Finally, we will be launching Unit 3: A New Nation and focus on the crafting of the United States Constitution and presidency of George Washington.



Test/Projects Dates

Jan 2nd – ELA H2O Project due
 Jan 4th – SS Declaration of Independence Break up Letter Project due
 Jan 9th – SS Test: Unit 2 Class 720 & 722
 Jan 10th - SS Test: Unit 2 Class 721
 Jan 10th - SS Test: Thematic Essay Class 720
 Jan 11th - SS Test: Thematic Essay Class 721 & 722
 Jan 14th – Math Task Unit 3 Class 721
 Jan 15th – ELA Wordly Wise Test #2
 Jan 15th – Math Task Unit 3 Class 720 & 722
 Jan 17th – Math Notebook Quiz Class 721
 Jan 18th – Math Notebook Quiz Class 720, 722
 Jan 23rd – Math Exam: Unit 3 Class 721, 722
 Jan 24th – Math Exam: Unit 3 Class 720, 721
 Students will continue to be quizzed on their growing academic Science vocabulary. They will be tested on relevant content.



REMINDERS!

Students should read independently each night and write three responses per week in their homework notebooks. Responses are due every Friday. Books can be selected from the classroom library.

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

Check Google Classroom every night for Social Studies homework and school-wide reminders. Videos are being posted as studying resources. Students are encouraged to conduct their own research projects outside of school for extra credit and can design their own research questions.

Please join us for a Parents as Partners event: “Rise Up!” Investigating History through the Lens of “Hamilton: An American Musical” on Tuesday, January 23rd Class 721: 9:00-9:30am; Class 720: 9:45-10:15am; Class 722: 10:30-11:00am

Encourage students to put their ideas of how to positively impact their environment into play at home.

CROSSROADS FARM at Grossman’s volunteers came to our classes and taught us how to thresh, clean, sort and identify organic seeds from plants on their farm Families are urged to visit the farm in person or on the internet (www.xroadsfarmliny.com) to see where the seeds are being grown and nurtured.

Required Reading



ELA – Independent Reading Book, 20 minutes daily; Poetry Packet; January Complex Text on Child Labor Laws

Math – Go Math Modules 6 and 7; Buckle Down Unit 3: Lesson 11-15

Science – Students are always encouraged to independently read Science articles, journals, and magazines to deepen their understanding of the world around them. All required reading are provided in class.



SS Scholars of the Month

Class 720: Lucia Songalia-Rosario
 Class 721: Nicholas Koshy
 Class 722: Colin Holst



Math Student of the Month:

Class 720- 720- SK Ahmed
 Class 721- Mackenzie Giordano
 Class 722- Sarah Kouider

School Closing

January 21st – Martin Luther King Jr. Day

The Petrides School

January 2019

Grade 7

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1 Schools Closed Winter Break	2 ELA H2O Project due	3 Science Assessment Environment Issues (based on Peer Teaching)	4 SS "Declaration of Independence Break up Letter" Project due	5
6	7	8	9 SS Test: Unit 2 Class 720 & 722	10 SS Test: Unit 2 Class 721 SS Test: Thematic Essay Class 720	11 Independent Reading Response # 13, 14, 15 SS Test: Thematic Essay Class 721 & 722	12
13	14 Math Task Unit 3 Class 721	15 ELA Wordly Wise Test #2 Math Task Unit 3 Class 720 & 722	16 Science Exam: Ecology	17 Math Notebook Quiz Class 721	18 Independent Reading Response # 16, 17, 18 Math Notebook Quiz Class 720, 722	19
20	21 Schools Closed Martin Luther King Jr. Day	22 Talent Show Practice (8 th period)	23 Parents as Partners: "Rise Up!" Hamilton 720: 9:45-10:15am 721: 9:00-9:30am 722: 10:30-11:00am Math Exam: Unit 3 Class 721, 722	24 Math Exam: Unit 3 Class 720, 721	25 Independent Reading Response # 19, 20, 21 Talent Show Practice 12:00-12:45pm Auditorium	26
27	28 End of Second Marking Period	29	30	31	2/1 Talent Show Practice 12:00-12:45pm Auditorium	

Important Upcoming Dates:

February 5th – Lunar New Year
 February 13th - Middle School Talent Show
 February 18th through 22nd – Midwinter Recess
 February 25th – Classes Resume