



# The Michael J. Petrides School

## Middle School Newsletter Grade 7

### October 2017



Dear Middle School Parents,

I am happy to say we can put another smooth school opening in the books! I hope you took the opportunity to meet your child's teachers at our annual Back to School event. I have included our teacher information sheet in this newsletter for your easy reference. It has been a joy to see the fresh faces of September. I am looking forward to a fantastic year with this remarkable group of middle school students.

The students look great in their school uniforms. As per our school uniform policy, **ALL** students are required to wear uniforms every day to school. The uniform policy consists of a light blue top with navy blue bottoms, a school physical education uniform, or school spirit wear. I will continue to have incentives for students in compliance with the uniform policy. I will also continue to use the "*Citywide Standards of Intervention and Discipline Measures*" if a student is not in compliance. The infraction code is B02 – "Failing to wear the required school uniform (applies only to students in grades 6 – 12 in schools that have adopted a school uniform policy and whose parents have not secured an exemption.) Students not in compliance with the school uniform policy will receive a warning letter as a courtesy.

An important school wide goal is to continue our partnerships with parents during this school year and to have open lines of communication. This partnership has been recognized as being paramount to the success of our students. I believe opening our classrooms and inviting parents to experience our innovative learning activities with their children is informative and fun. I am happy to announce our first Parents as Partners event for this school year is "*The People vs. Columbus.*" Grade 7 Parents are invited to see their children explore the role that Africans and woman had on the American Colonies according to the following schedule:

**Tuesday, October 3, 2017**

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

I would also like to invite the parents of 5<sup>th</sup> graders for a **Sip & Share** to talk with the 5<sup>th</sup> grade team of teachers and myself about curriculum, their transition to Middle School and any concerns you may have on **Tuesday, October 24, 2017 at 8:50am.**

An 8<sup>th</sup> grade **Sip & Share** has been scheduled for **Wednesday, October 11, 2017 at 8:15am.** You will be able to talk with the 8<sup>th</sup> grade team of teachers and myself about curriculum and the many events and exams on schedule this year for your child. I will also like to discuss **The High School Application Process** and our shadowing program with you. **I have enclosed documentation attached to this newsletter for your reference.**

Socialization is paramount in the life of an adolescent. Sociologists have noted its importance for a long time. "In order to build gratifying human relationships, it is vital that children learn and have the opportunity to practice social skills considered appropriate." We are happily planning some social activities to celebrate Halloween in Middle School! On Monday, October 30, 2017 we will be having a Middle School Halloween Dance. This event will be held in the student cafeteria from 2:30 until 4 pm. A permission slip will be forthcoming.

Our National Junior Honor Society will be selling candy bracelets and necklaces during the month of October to support Sugarland, Texas. Our school has worked with the school district of Sugarland, Texas during the 2016-2017 school year. Members of this district came to visit our Middle School last year and worked as our learning partners. We would love to use the funds raised to help them rebuild after the devastating Hurricane.

Petrides PAWS Points Tracker sheets were explained and distributed to all middle school students. Students can earn points for PAWS behavior throughout the month. Our reward token store will be open during the month of October.

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Our PAL after school program is well underway. I am excited to see so many students in attendance! In order for students to participate in our free after school program, they must complete a PAL application. Applications are available online at [petridesschool.com](http://petridesschool.com) or in my office. The program runs from 2:30 to 6:00 daily and students can attend only part time if desired.

Pupilpath.com is an online resource to keep track of assignments and your child's progress at school. Pupilpath is up and running for students and parents in grade 5 - 8. If you need login information, feel free to contact me at (718) 815-0186 extension 22171 or [BSouffrin@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:BSouffrin@schools.nyc.gov).

Your child received their activation code for a NYC Schools account in their backpack. This account is a new way of accessing key information about your child's progress. Some available features are NYS Standardized test scores and reports, attendance and grades.

**Mark your calendars:** There is no school on October 9, 2017 in observance of Columbus Day. The end of the first marking period is November 3, 2017. Fall Parent/Teacher Conferences are on November 15<sup>th</sup> and November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

A Note from the PTA:

Join us at our next PTA meeting on October 18, 2017 at 7pm

Chocolate Sales ends October 16th. Please send chocolate sale money clearly marked ATTN: PTA.

If you have any questions feel free to contact me at [BSouffrin@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:BSouffrin@schools.nyc.gov) or at (718)815-0186 extension 22171.

Sincerely,

BettyAnn Souffrin  
Assistant Principal

## What topics will the students learn today?

ELA – During the month of October the students will study *Monster* by Walter Dean Myers. They will determine the important themes in the text in preparation for a thematic essay. They will continue to work on annotation, citation of textual evidence and analysis of point of view.

Math – This month the students will learn to apply and extend their previous understanding of operations to add, subtract, multiply and divide rational numbers. They will also learn to solve real-world and mathematical problems involving the four operations with rational numbers.

Science – In October the students will finish Chapter 2 and begin Chapter 3 by learning the difference between a rock and a mineral. They will learn about properties that are used to identify minerals and use different materials to help them identify minerals and rocks. They will also learn about the formation of rocks and how they are constantly being changed through the rock cycle.

Social Studies – This month our Social Studies Scholars will be exploring Native Americans, Early European Encounters and Colonial Developments. We will be examining the complexity of indigenous cultures in North America prior to European exploration through a Google Slides group research project exploring the impact of Columbus and participating in a class court case entitled “The People Vs. Columbus, et al.”, exploring the role that Africans and women had on the American Colonies and investigating the three colonial regions in America. Our month will conclude with a document-based informational writing task focused on the themes of wealth, power and morality that were influenced by exploration and colonization.



### Test/Projects Dates

- Oct 3<sup>rd</sup> – “The People vs. Columbus et al” court case
- Oct 6<sup>th</sup> – ELA Independent Reading Responses # 9, 10, 11
- Oct 11<sup>th</sup> – Social Studies exam
- Oct 12<sup>th</sup> – Math Task Unit 1 (Class 720)
- Oct 13<sup>th</sup> – Math Task Unit 1 (Class 721 & 722)
- Oct 13<sup>th</sup> – ELA Independent Reading Responses # 12, 13, 14
- Oct 13<sup>th</sup> – SS Quiz: 3 Colonial Regions
- Oct 17<sup>th</sup> – Math Notebook Quiz (Class 720 & 721)
- Oct 18<sup>th</sup> – Math Notebook Quiz (Class 722)
- Oct 19<sup>th</sup> – Math Exam: Unit 1 (Class 720)
- Oct 20<sup>th</sup> – Math Exam: Unit 1 (Class 721 & 722)
- Oct 20<sup>th</sup> – ELA Narrative Essay due
- Oct 25<sup>th</sup> – Science exam: Chapter 3
- Oct 27<sup>th</sup> – ELA Independent Reading Responses # 15, 16, 17
- Oct 27<sup>th</sup> – SS Exam: Unit 1 Multiple Choice



### REMINDERS!

As per our uniform policy **ALL** students are required to wear uniforms every day to school. The uniform policy consists of a light blue collared shirt and dark blue bottoms.

Independent reading books should stay at home and be read 30 minutes daily. Each week 3 Independent Reading Responses will be due.

Students should come prepared for Math class with a pencil and calculator every day!

The students should use their Science review sheets as a guide when studying.

SS Tests are aligned to the US History Regents and will be 2 day exams this year that includes Multiple Choice and an Essay. Students are encouraged to conduct their own research projects outside of school for extra credit and can design their own research questions. Watch the Disney film Pocahontas at home and compare it to the historical content in Social Studies class. Is this film accurate?

Please join our Parents as Partners Workshop on Oct 2<sup>nd</sup>: “The People vs. Columbus, et al” Court Case. Court is now in session! Defendants will be presenting their arguments against the charge of murder that was committed in the year after 1492, when perhaps as many as 3 million or more Tainos were slaughtered.

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

**Please bring in *Scholastics News* slip and money if you haven’t already done so.**

### Required Reading

- ELA – In-class: *Monster* by Walter Dean Myers. At home: Independent reading books chosen from our classroom library.
- Math – GoMath textbook Modules 1, 2 & 3; Buckle Down Lessons 1-6
- Science – Textbook Chapters 3: Rocks and Minerals
- Social Studies – Article readings for HW on Google Classroom; Classwork Packets



### School Closing

**October 9  
Columbus Day observed**

### SS Scholars of the Month

- Class 720: Heidi Andrade Castell
- Class 721: Frank Lombardi
- Class 722: Veronica Wankowicz

# The Petrides School



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 Social Studies Parents as Partners Class 722- 8:15-8:45 Class 721- 9:45-10:15 Class 720- 10:30-11:00	4	5	6 ELA Independent Reading Responses # 9, 10, 11	7
8	9 <b>No School Columbus Day</b>	10	11 Social Studies Exam	12 Math Task Unit 1 Class 720	13 ELA Independent Reading Responses # 12, 13, 14 Math Task Unit 1 Class 721 & 722 SS Quiz: 3 Colonial Regions	14
15	16	17 Math Notebook Quiz Class 720 & 721	18 Math Notebook Quiz Class 722 PTA Meeting 7:00pm	19 Math Exam: Unit 1 Class 720	20 ELA Narrative Essay Math Exam: Unit 1 All Class	21
22	23	24	25 Science Exam: Chapter 3 Rocks and Minerals	26	27 ELA Independent Reading Responses #15, 16, 17 SS Exam: Unit 1 Multiple Choice	28
29	30 SS Exam: Unit 1 Essay Halloween Dance 2:30-4:30	31				

**Important Upcoming Dates:**

End of First Marking - November 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Parent Teacher Conferences - Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>

