



The Michael J. Petrides School

Middle School Newsletter Grade 8

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,

What topics will the students learn this month?

ELA - During the month of January, we will be exploring John Steinbeck's novella, *Of Mice and Men*. In this short novel, we will see how life and historical events of the early 1900's were portrayed through migrant workers in Southern California. John Steinbeck uses literary devices such as foreshadowing, imagery, and symbolism to create this realistic and interesting piece of classic literature.

Math – We just finished factoring expressions and we will now be exploring quadratic equations. We will use some of the factoring methods to find the zeros/solutions to quadratics.

Science – This month the students will continue and complete their study of reproduction. They will identify reproduction anatomy and describe the function of each part. They will discuss the differences between internal and external fertilization and describe advantages and disadvantages for both. They will also describe how the menstrual cycle prepares the female's body for pregnancy and will discuss the different stages of pregnancy and birth. The students will also discuss disease as a failure of homeostasis. Included in this unit is our mandated sexual education lesson.

Social Studies – During the month of January our 8th Grade students will begin studying World War I. We will analyze primary source documents and political cartoons from that era.



Test/Projects Dates

- Jan 11th – US History Exam
- Jan 16th – Science Exam: Chapter 23 (Class 821)
- Jan 17th – Science exam: Chapter 23 (Class 820)
- Jan 18th - Wordly Wise Test #6
- Jan 18th – Science exam: Chapter 23 (Class 822)
- Jan 22nd – Math Exam: Quadratics
- Jan 23rd – Math Exam: Quadratics

Of Mice and Men thematic essay due at end of unit
Please check puupilpath.com for updates on a weekly basis.



REMINDERS!

The Algebra 1 Regent exam will be June 19 @ 1:15pm

The US History Regent exam will be June 18 @ 9:15am

The Living Environment Regent exam will be June 18 @ 1:15pm

Bring Graphing Calculators to Math class each day!

Spend 15 minutes a day reviewing US History notes or handouts from class to begin preparing for the Regents exam.



Required Reading

- ELA - *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck
- Science – Textbook Chapter 23; Class notes
- US History - Primary source documents provided in class

School Closing

January 21st – Martin Luther King Jr. Day

The Petrides School

January

Grade 8

2019

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1 Schools Closed Winter Break	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11 US History Exam	12
13	14	15	16 Science Exam Chapter 23 (Class 821)	17 Science Exam Chapter 23 (Class 820)	18 ELA Wordly Wise Test #6 Science Exam Chapter 23 (Class 822)	19
20	21 Schools Closed Martin Luther King Jr. Day	22 Math Exam: Quadratics	23 Math Exam: Quadratics	24 Talent Show Practice (8 th period)	25 Talent Show Practice 12:00-12:45pm Auditorium	26
27	28 End of Second Marking Period	29	30	31 Talent Show Practice (8 th period)	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