



Michael J. Petrides School

Middle School Newsletter



GRADE 8

JANUARY 2020

Working Together for Student Success

"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 2020 brings you nothing but good things. We certainly have some exciting things planned for January! January 10, 2020 is College Awareness Day. Seventh grade students will be participating in lessons to help them determine what type of career and school may be a good fit for them. All students should wear their college gear! A raffle ticket for a special prize will be given to any student in middle school wearing college gear.

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 28, 2020	11:20 – 11:50	Science Inquiry Lab
5	521	January 28, 2020	9:00 – 9:30	Science Inquiry Lab
5	522	January 28, 2020	1:00 – 1:30	Science Inquiry Lab
7	720	January 23, 2020	1:00 – 1:30	Rise Up! Hamilton
7	721	January 23, 2020	8:15 – 8:45	Rise Up! Hamilton
7	722	January 23, 2020	9:00 – 9:30	Rise Up! Hamilton
7	720	January 27, 2020	1:00 – 2:00	ELA Socratic Seminar
7	721	January 27, 2020	8:30 – 9:30	ELA Socratic Seminar
7	722	January 27, 2020	10:00 – 11:00	ELA Socratic Seminar

The "Billion Oyster project" is flourishing at Petrides. Ms. Christa McDonald and Mr. John Cucuzza are responsible for bringing this exciting learning opportunity to our Petrides community. Our students are taking an active role in the preservation of the oyster population in our native New York waters. We would monitor the growth of, and care for a cluster of oysters that would be placed off a pier along the Staten Island shoreline. Students are collecting and inputting actual scientific data to a data pool that is nationwide! The students have visited the four oyster bin sites (2 sites at Snug Harbor Pier, Lighthouse Museum, and Alice Austin House) with specialists from the Billion Oyster project with the oysters to transfer them into our off-site bins. Ms. McDonald's science classroom is now home to four oyster tanks. Her Billion Oyster class meets weekly for this experience of being responsible for living beings and analyzing data, to working with High School mentors and becoming an active student led learning community.

Ms. McDonald and her students have also partnered with the New York City Parks Department Wildlife Unit to become official "raptor nest monitors". NYC Parks is monitoring nesting raptors citywide. While on a field trip hiking the greenbelt, they saw raptors on our grounds. Our students are collecting observations and making submissions. They are now "citizen scientist monitors." I was lucky enough to be part of an

“awesome National Geographic moment” with the students. A mature red-tailed hawk caught, perched with, and ate a pigeon in plain sight.

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, 2020. Our second annual 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 during middle school lunch period. 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 NJHS candidates and members in Room B204 on Wednesday each week. 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 Monday, January 13, 2020. Bowling will be every Monday 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. Applications are available in my office, Room B217.

Middle School Wrestling 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.

I am pleased to announce that our Robotics team is officially registered and have started to prepare for competition. Lego Robotics meets during PAL twice weekly.

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,

Ms. BettyAnn Souffrin
Assistant Principal

What topics will the students learn today?

ELA – During the month of January, we are finishing Poe’s unit by exploring the poetic devices in “The Raven.” We will then 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 will continue to explore system of equations- in particular word problems and linear inequalities. We will also begin to learn the topic of quadratic equations and learn how to find the roots/zeros, vertex and axis of symmetry.

Science – Students will continue their study of how their bodies maintain homeostasis through the interaction of various organs systems. They will identify major organs and their functions. They will explain how disease is a failure of homeostasis.

Social Studies – This month our eighth graders will be studying The Roaring 20's and The Great Depression.



REMINDERS!

Be sure to study US History notes for 15 minutes a night.

Please send in your Family Living/Sex Ed consent forms if you have not already done so.

Visit <https://www.nysedregents.org> to study Regents questions for all Regents exams.

Regents’ exams are administered on the following dates:

Living Environment Wed. June 17th 1:15pm

US History & Government t Thurs. June 18th 9:15am

Algebra 1 Exam June 18th 1:15 pm

TI graphing calculators must be brought to school daily.



Test/Projects Dates

Jan 8th – Science Immune System Project due

Jan 10th – ELA Wordly Wise test #6

Jan 10th - US History Exam

Jan 14th – ELA Edgar Allan Poe essay

Jan 14th – Math Test: systems of linear inequalities and systems of linear equations word problems

Please check pupil path for exam dates.



Required Reading

ELA – *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck

Science – Textbook Chapters 20-23 will be covered from December through January



SCHOOL CLOSING

Jan 20th – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

The Petrides School

JANUARY

Grade 8

2020

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			1 No School Winter Recess	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 Science Immune System Project due	9	10 ELA Wordly Wise Test #6 US History Multiple Choice Test College Awareness Day! (Wear your College gear)	11
12	13	14 ELA Edgar Allan Poe Essay Math Test: Graphing Inequalities System of Equations "Spotlight Fight" practice	15	16	17	18
19	20 No School Martin Luther King Jr. Day	21 "Spotlight Fight" practice	22	23	24	25
26	27 End of Second Marking Period	28 "Spotlight Fight" practice	29	30	31	

Important Upcoming Dates:

Feb 17th – 21st – Mid-Winter Recess