



Michael J. Petrides School



# Middle School Newsletter

## GRADE 8

## FEBRUARY 2019

*Working Together for Student Success*

Dear Middle School Parents,

Wow! The saying is certainly true. "Time flies when you are having fun." Half of the school year is behind us already. February marks the beginning of the third marking period.

Our Middle School Social Studies department will be hosting our annual Social Studies Fair. Projects are for extra credit in grades 5, 6, 7 and 8. The theme for this year's projects is "Triumph and Tragedy in History." The teachers will also have after school sessions for groups to work with their guidance. A separate permission slip for both has been distributed to students. Social Studies Fair Projects are due to teachers on March 1, 2019. The Middle School Social Studies Fair will be held on March 7, 2019.

Please send in BOX TOPS to show how much you **LOVE** your school. Box Tops help us buy books and items for students to use in classrooms. Attached you will find a box top collection sheet.

Our Middle School students are VERY EXCITED to show off their talents in the "SPOTLIGHT FIGHT." The Middle School Talent Show will be held on Wednesday, February 13, 2019 from 12:45 until 2:15pm. Attached you will find a permission slip for students with a ticket price of \$3. This money will be in support of Habitat for Humanity (a cause near and dear to The Petrides School.) Parents are welcome to attend this event. You will also find a ticket order form for parents, family and friends attached.

We will be celebrating Valentine's Day in true Middle School style. On Thursday, February 14, 2019 from 1:15 – 2:20 pm we will be having a "**Gimme a Pizza Your Heart Valentine's Party.**" The Permission slip for the Valentine's Day Party is attached.

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 7<sup>th</sup> grade members on Tuesday each week. 8<sup>th</sup> grade members can meet every Wednesday and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students applying can meet on Friday 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.

Our *TEST PREP ACADEMY* will begin in March. Please look out for the permission slip for this wonderful cost free opportunity. I strongly encourage all students to participate in test prep sessions offered at our school.

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.

### **PTA ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Join us for Our Sweetheart Dance on Sunday Feb 10<sup>th</sup> from 2-5 pm in our cafeteria. The dance is open to all students in grades PreK through 8<sup>th</sup>. Cost is \$10 per person.

Our February PTA meeting will be held on Wednesday, Feb 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. Join us!

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

Sincerely,

BettyAnn Souffrin  
Assistant Principal. Middle School

## What topics will the students learn today?

ELA – This month we will complete our *Of Mice and Men* unit where we have been focusing on determining themes in literature. We have been using Google Classroom document to keep track of interactions between characters and the theme topics that are proven. We are now working on writing a thematic essay in MLA format.

Math – We will continue expanding our knowledge on quadratic equations as we explore how to graph and solve word problems. We will also be analyzing the different intervals for the y-axis and x-axis in the context of the problem.

Science – Students will be learning about genetics for February and March. They will predict possible offspring by using Punnett Square. They will analyze the structure of a chromosome and determine chromosomal abnormalities on a karyotype.

Social Studies – During the month of February the students will be covering World War II and working on Data Based Questions (DBQ) and Thematic Essays.



### Test/Projects Dates

- Feb 1<sup>st</sup> – ELA: Wordly Wise Test #7
- Feb 8<sup>th</sup> – ELA: Diary Project due (project grade)
- Feb 11<sup>th</sup> – ELA NYS practice Exam given due on Feb 25<sup>th</sup> (test grade)
- Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> – Math Exam: Quadratics
- Feb 12<sup>th</sup> – Science Vocabulary quiz (Class 821 & 822)
- Feb 13<sup>th</sup> – ELA Thematic Essay due (project grade)
- Feb 14<sup>th</sup> – Science Vocabulary quiz (Class 820)
- Feb 15<sup>th</sup> – ELA: Wordly Wise Test #8
- Feb 25<sup>th</sup> – ELA NYS practice Exam due (test grade)
- Mar 1<sup>st</sup> - Social Studies Exam

See pupilpath.com for specific Science vocabulary words.



### REMINDERS!

The NYS ELA exam will be on April 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.

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!**

Students are encouraged to participate in our optional middle school social studies fair for extra credit! This year's theme is "Triumph and Tragedy in History". We will be hosting after-school social studies sessions for students to work on their project with their social studies teachers (parent consent slip must be returned).

Social Studies Fair Student Team Workshops

Thursday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019: 2:30 – 4:30

Thursday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019: 2:30 – 4:30

Thursday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019: 2:30 – 4:30

Project Topic Due Date: February 4<sup>th</sup> (submit to your S.S. teacher)

Complete Project Due Date: March 1<sup>st</sup>

Social Studies Fair: March 7<sup>th</sup>

### Required Reading

ELA – *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck

Science – Textbook Ch. 12-15; Science World Magazine



### School Closing

February 5<sup>th</sup> – Lunar New Year  
February 18<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> – Midwinter Break

# The Petrides School

# February 2019

## Grade 8

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					1 ELA Wordly Wise Test # 7	2
3	4	5 <b>No School Lunar New Year</b>	6	7 Report Cards Distributed  SS Fair Workshop 2:30-4:30pm	8 ELA Diary Project due	9
10	11 ELA NYS practice Exam given due on Feb 25 <sup>th</sup>  Math Exam: Quadratics	12 Science Vocabulary Quiz (Class 821 & 822)	13 ELA Thematic Essay due  Middle School "Spotlight Fight" 12:45-2:15pm	14 Science Vocabulary Quiz (Class 820)  Valentine's Day Party 1:15-2:20pm  SS Fair Workshop 2:30-4:30pm	15 ELA: Wordly Wise Test #8	16
17	18 <b>No School Mid-Winter Recess</b>	19 <b>No School Mid-Winter Recess</b>	20 <b>No School Mid-Winter Recess</b>	21 <b>No School Mid-Winter Recess</b>	22 <b>No School Mid-Winter Recess</b>	23
24	25 ELA NYS practice Exam due	26	27	28 SS Fair Workshop 2:30-4:30pm	3/1 Social Studies Exam	

### Important Upcoming Dates:

**March 1<sup>st</sup> - Social Studies Exam**  
**March 7<sup>th</sup> - Social Studies Fair**  
**March 14<sup>th</sup> - Parent Teacher Conferences**