July, 2019

Dear Middle School Families,

Welcome to the 2019-2020 school year and life in our Middle School. September is peeking around the corner, and I’m eager to greet all the children on Tuesday, September 3rd, our first day of school. In the meantime, I hope you and your family members are enjoying the change of pace and different rhythms of summer. It’s very quiet around Umpleby Hall, so I’m looking forward to the energy the students will bring in September.

If you have been by campus over the past few weeks, you’ll have noticed that the construction process is accelerating around the new Middle School building. The exterior walls are going up, and by the start of the school year you will be able to really see what the building will look like. To me, there is no better analogy for what will be going on inside your student’s brain over the next three years than the construction of the new building. As I’ve often said, the ages between 11-16 are really the “age of opportunity.” A middle school-aged student is capable of quickly learning new passions and has a neurological plasticity that adults cannot achieve. Of course, like a major construction project, a student of this age also has challenges and setbacks, and there are unexpected delays! I am looking forward to partnering with you to ensure that we can make these years as productive and meaningful as possible.

These middle school years are a time at Dwight-Englewood for your youngsters to engage in the many active, spirited, and innovative components of our program. Every day, your child will explore several worlds: academics, arts and athletics, ethics, and 21st century problem-solving skills. They will experience the thrill of intellectual pursuit, the delight of finding new interests, the joy in social friendships, the pleasure of challenging oneself, and the excitement of developing and honing leadership skills. We expect they will excel in the classroom, on the stage, on the playing fields, in the music halls, in making ethical decisions, and in solving meaningful relevant problems in creative ways. They will become more adept at calling upon their reservoir of Student as Learner traits (Organization, Engagement, Critical Thinking, Collaboration, Daily Preparation, Creative Thinking, Perseverance, and Risk-Taking) to help them face, and conquer, challenges not only in school but also outside our walls.

As you plan for the first days of school, here are some updates that will help you:

Please note:
The school will be closed for Rosh Hashanah on Monday, September 30, and Tuesday, October 1, as well as Yom Kippur on Wednesday, October 9.
Every student must have the state of NJ “Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation” form on file with the school. All required health/medical forms must be completed and uploaded online to the Magnus Health Portal by August 1st. Please see the enclosed packet for more details.

The Grade Level Supply Lists are available on this website: www.d-e.org/start, as are other important items for the beginning of the year.

Beginning with our first school day on Tuesday, September 3 and continuing throughout the week, we will have full days from 8:10 am to 3:25 pm. We have planned a combination of orientation activities, welcoming activities, iPad rollout, and a walk-through of modified class schedules. Children should wear comfortable clothing; just iPads will be needed, no other books and supplies will be needed. I will be in front of Umpleby greeting your youngsters. Please drop off your child in front of Umpleby and make arrangements with your child about pick-up time and place. Refer to the “Middle School Drop Off and Pick Up” detail section included in this letter.

Our virtual bookstore, mbsdirect.net will be open and ready for middle school purchases beginning July 28, 2019. Although our middle school students will not receive schedules until the first day of school, please proceed to order books following these guidelines.

Go to www.d-e.org/shop and click on the link to mbsdirect.net.

Order books between July 28 and August 31 for guaranteed delivery by the start of school. MBS Direct is offering free shipping for orders over $59.00 placed during the week of July 28-August 10.

*NB: Some books are also available from other online stores. Feel free to comparison shop but please buy the correct ISBN, if you decide to use an alternate source.

While the first class begins at 8:10 am, I ask that parents recognize that arriving to school at 8:10 am is in effect, lace. Children need time to prepare for the school day, to organize their materials, to use their lockers, to touch base with a teacher, and to visit with their friends. Please plan on arriving by 8:00 am to ensure that these tasks contribute to a strong start every day.

You may want to bookmark our D-E Middle School landing page so you can easily be kept updated with our blogs, and other information throughout the year: www.d-e.org/middle.

The teachers and I have already planned some exciting activities for each grade. Here are some dates you will want to note:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, September 3</td>
<td>First Day of School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, September 16</td>
<td>Middle School Fall Sports begin</td>
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<td>Wednesday, September 18</td>
<td>Picture Day for all MS Students – Form included in this mailing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, September 19</td>
<td>Back to School Night! – 6:30-9:50 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week of September 25th</td>
<td>Overnight Field Trips for grades 6, 7, and 8. Information included in this mailing</td>
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Enjoy and savor the remaining days of summer; I hope you’re as eager as I am for this upcoming academic year to unfold. I am looking forward to beginning the journey of Middle School together soon.

Returning 7th and 8th grade students also need to remember that they have a summer math assignment in ALEKS. Students should have that completed by the start of classes in September.

Don’t forget the summer reading! Students have both assigned reading from the English classes and a choice of a Community of Readers book. Both lists are online at https://www.d-e.org/academics/middle-school.

See everyone in September. Go Bulldogs!

Jonathan Davis
Middle School Principal