

MILDRED E. STRANG MIDDLE SCHOOL
YORKTOWN CENTRAL SCHOOLS
2701 CROMPOND ROAD
YORKTOWN HEIGHTS, NY 10598
(914) 243-8100

LINDA S. GRIMM
PRINCIPAL

SCOTT W. SHILAND
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL
DEIRDRE M. AMERLING
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

September 16, 2009

Dear Parents/Guardians:

As always, we greatly appreciate your support for our school as we begin the new school year. The students have been terrific, the staff is very enthusiastic, and we are looking forward to a fine year. MESMS letters, forms, teacher web pages with homework, etc. will be accessible through our Middle School website. Please check www.yorktown.org frequently for new or updated and reference information from MESMS.

Back to School Night for Grades 6, 7, and 8 is **Thursday, October 1st**. During this special evening for parents/guardians, you'll be able to follow your child's schedule for that day, going from teacher to teacher to learn more about the curriculum and our expectations. Your child should be bringing home the schedule on Tuesday, September 29th, so please look for it. **The class schedule for all grades will begin promptly at 7:00 pm and will end at 8:55 pm on October 1st. The parents/guardians of our 6th Grade students also are invited to attend a brief overview of the MESMS Health Curriculum and our Building Safety program that will be presented by faculty members in the MESMS cafeteria from 6:30 pm to 6:55 pm before our Back to School Night schedule begins.**

Parking for **Back to School Night** will be at a premium so please consider car-pooling and allow extra time. Please be aware of the traffic pattern for the Middle School/High School campus and follow all directional signs in the parking lot. You may also park at Mohansic Elementary School. A shuttle bus will be available from the Mohansic School parking lot beginning at 6:45 pm until 9:15 pm.

And now some other important notes and information:

❖ If your child is late to school or absent, we must have a note from a parent/guardian that states the reason for the absence or lateness when your child returns to school.

❖ A request for a bus pass must be made **in writing** by the parent/guardian of the child who needs the pass. The request must be submitted to the Lobby Supervisor by Period 1. The pass will be honored for that student **ONLY** if there is room on the bus. Your child must be able to contact you at our dismissal time to make other arrangements in the event that the pass cannot be honored.

❖ When you visit our school, **please enter through the Main Lobby** only. You will be asked to show us your driver's license and to **sign in/sign out** to help us keep our school building secure. The building is open from 7:30 am - 3:30 pm. If there is an evening activity, the building will be re-opened just prior to that event. If you are picking up your child, please review page 30 of the MESMS Student Handbook that your child received (also posted on our website) for the dismissal procedures.

❖ Your child will be receiving a listing of MESMS clubs and a schedule of 2009-2010 activities during the first week in October. There will be morning announcements in school with information for your child about the after-school activities which usually take place in our building from 2:05 pm - 3:05 pm. Information about the 3:15 pm activity bus routes is available in the District Transportation Guide as well as in the Main and the Assistant Principals' offices. ****At times, we will publicize, photograph, record or video tape our students during a school activity, class, trip or event for the media, school or teacher websites, television etc. You must inform the MESMS Main Office IN WRITING by September 30, 2009 if you DO NOT wish to have your child photographed, videotaped, recorded etc. (You can also go to the MESMS web site for a form that you can download, complete and submit by September 30, 2009.)****

❖ During September and October, our building administrators will have team meetings with our students and their teachers. We will discuss our "Be Safe, Be Responsible, Be Respectful" Guidelines in school. School Resource Officer (SRO) Brian Mundy also will provide much information about internet safety as well as ways to be safe at home and in the community during these meetings. During the school year, your child may receive recognition tickets and/or acknowledgements for role model behavior and acts of kindness. Our monthly class meeting time reinforces positive student behavior, character education and bullying prevention lessons.

- Picture Day is **Tuesday, September 22nd and Wednesday, September 23rd**. Make-ups will be Thursday, November 5th.
- The MESMS PTA Book Fair will be held on **Wednesday, October 14th and Thursday, October 15th**.
- School-wide assemblies by grade level for "Rachel's Challenge" will be held on **Thursday, October 15th**.
- The District-Wide Emergency Drill is **Friday, October 16th**. Dismissal will be 15 minutes earlier (1:45 pm).
- The first Parent Conference Day is **Tuesday, November 3rd** from 1 pm - 8 pm. Check the district calendar for further info.
- An upcoming MESMS PTA meeting is **Wednesday November 4th at 9:30 am**.
- The MESMS Open House is **Tuesday, November 17th** from 8:00 am-10:00 am. You will receive more information prior to this date.
- The Fifth MESMS International Night will be **Thursday, November 19th**.

I hope you will find this information helpful. See you on **Thursday, October 1st**, at our Back to School Night.

Sincerely,

Linda S. Grimm