



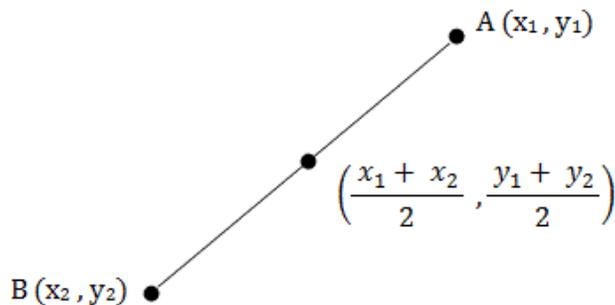
Christopher E. Starczewski, Principal

The Mid-Point of 2019-2020

As a former teacher of mathematics, I had a variety of favorite topics to teach. One of those topics was the mid-point formula. Now, I know what you are probably thinking... "Loads of excitement in this guy's world." With that out of the way, let me see if I can share a little bit about why this topic has such meaning ~ I promise to avoid a conversation about Algebra and Geometry...

Alone, the mid-point is the exact location of the middle of the end points of a line segment. The line segment can be made up of multiple data points that fall on a straight line or are clustered along a certain trajectory and summarized into a "line of best fit" that models the general trend (trend line) of the data points. Let's take a look at a little graph and think about the following:

- The x-axis (horizontal) represents time in the 2019-2020 school year.
- The y-axis (vertical) represents the learning for students in the 2019-2020 school year.
- Endpoint B is Day 1 of the 2019-2020 school year
- Endpoint A is Day 180 of the 2019-2020 School year
- The connection between the points is our trend line for learning



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In this example, the trajectory of the line is very steep and positive: it represents a high level of learning over time (which is ultimately what we want to see - GROWTH). If we were to continue this line in both directions to represent the previous years' learning and future year's learning, we may see a picture that looks different or similar (hopefully).

Enough with mathematics, and now a focus on GROWTH over time. All students come in to each school with a base of understanding in all courses that they will be engaged in. Some of that understanding has occurred from in-home experience, some has been from real-world experience, and much of the rest has come from schooling. The goal is not to necessarily earn a "grade" (while this may seem counterintuitive, let me explain). The grade is a calculated measure of accumulated actions related to the learning and assessment activities for the given grading period. These actions are graded against rubrics and expectations, recorded in the grade book, returned to the student, and then the grades are averaged together through a formula to define the level of performance in the class for the grading period. What is missing from the grade is the interaction between the student and the teacher. The comments associated to the grade; the interactions in class leading up to and following the graded assignment designed to improve performance; the structures in place to allow for improvement over time (retakes of assessments, rewrites of papers, etc); all of these are missing in the grade yet occur to varying degrees in all classrooms.

So, back to the mid-point of our graph; the conclusion to term 2. Yes, you should be looking to the grade report in the Community Portal of SchoolBrains on January 31 at 3pm. Yes, you should look at the grades posted for each class. Yes, you should celebrate the positives and yes, you should have a conversation about the grades. Remember, consistency is the key to looking at grades (as parents, we want to see improving and or high grades) because as the year progresses, skills and tasks becoming increasingly more challenging. Having a consistent "B-" across terms is ok. Seeing a grade in Term 1 of a "C+" move to a grade of a "B" in Term 2 is a good thing; on the contrary, seeing a grade in Term 2 of a "C+" compared to a grade of a "B" in Term 1 could be a cause for concern. Seeing a grade of "C-" be constant from Term 1 to Term 2 is ok. Examining more than the report card is recommended: check the "assignments" section in SchoolBrains; look at the individual test and quiz scores; take a look at your child's IXL account (they can log in and you can look at all sorts of data for Mathematics and English language arts). More important than that data, talking with your child about learning habits, how often reading is occurring outside of school, where in the house and how quiet it is for studying and homework, and what your child's goals and passions with learning are.

At this school year's mid-point, take a deeper dive with your child in terms of their learning and see how positive a trajectory that learning is upon. As always, reach out to your child's teacher(s) with questions or concerns as we make the push towards Term 3 & 4. Oh, and just so you know, the formula at the top of this note can be explained by this (fun) little video if you are interested: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2T7m9uYkcuQ>

(note: video instruction is no substitute for expert math instruction by one of our teachers here at DMS...)

Best,

Chris





Michael Tucker, Assistant Principal

School is more than just tests and quizzes. School is a place where students can come to feel safe, feel structure, feel responsible and feel like they are a part of something bigger than themselves. It is a community.

It is a privilege to be in a school community where teachers take the time to get to know their students and each other. Teachers do more than just deliver instruction - they teach students character and help them become productive members of our society.

I consider the students of Dudley Middle School to be very fortunate to work with the committed adults in our building every day.

Adults who will encourage your child to take risks and be adventurous in the academic setting. More importantly, adults who take the time to teach students how to work alongside one another to accomplish a task in a respectful manner.

I am very proud to be part of the Dudley Middle School community. I am committed to working endlessly to keep this great school atmosphere alive.

“Productivity is never an accident. It is always the result of a commitment to excellence, intelligent planning, and focused effort.”

– Paul J. Meyer

NEWS FROM THE OFFICE



HOMEROOM

Students are expected to be in homeroom at **7:50 am** for attendance. If students are not present in homeroom, they will be marked absent. If a student is going to another classroom for extra help, or is not going to be in homeroom for another reason, **THEY STILL MUST CHECK IN.** They may either speak with their homeroom teacher to let them know they are going to another class, or they may write their name on the board with the date. If a student is not present in homeroom, and does not check in, they will be marked absent.

PICK UP/DROP OFF

Regular parent pick-up time is 2:30 pm. If you are picking up your child at regular time, and your child knows they are a pick-up, the school does not need to be notified.



BUSES

Students may ride a different bus for child care needs or emergencies only. Please make arrangements before school and send your child in with a note. We will only issue a bus pass for students with notes, or with verbal permission from parents/guardians. When sending your child home on a different bus, please make sure to include on the note: **student's first and last name, address of where student is going, and the date.**

LATE BUS The late bus arrives to DMS at approximately 3:40 pm and leaves the parking lot at approximately 3:50 pm. For more information regarding late buses, please visit <https://www.dcrsd.org/students/student-transportation> . The routes for the three late buses are posted there. Please note that the routes are abbreviated, but drivers will try to get your child as close to home as possible.

STUDENT IDs

Students are required to have their IDs to purchase lunch. If your child has lost their ID, they can purchase a new one for \$3.00 from Mrs. Briere in the library.

EXTENDED ABSENCES

If your child is going to be away for an extended period of time, please let the office know and we can send an extended absence form.

If a student is out for an extended period of time, they have 3 days after they return to make up any missed work.



Please click [here](#) for information regarding our **ASBESTOS NOTIFICATION**

MOVING?



If your family is moving within Dudley, the office must be notified, and a Family Change of Address Form **MUST BE COMPLETED**. If you are moving over the summer, you may contact the office, and a Family Change of Address Form can be mailed to you. You may also stop by the main office between 8:00 am and 2:00 pm. Please note: you must provide three forms of proof of residency upon returning Change of Address Form.

For further questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the main office at 508-943-2224, or the Central Registrar at 508-943-6888 X270.

Report cards will be posted to the portal on Friday, January 31, 2020 at 3:00 PM. You can view your child's report card by visiting:

https://community.schoolbrains.com/dudleycharlton_community

Click on the "reports" tab to view your child's report card. If you are having trouble, please feel free to contact the office at 508-943-2224.



follow us!



www.dcrsd.org/schools/Dudley-middle



[@DMSTITANS](https://www.facebook.com/DMSTITANS)



[@DMS_LeadLearner](https://twitter.com/DMS_LeadLearner)



If you would like to receive communication (newsletters, important notices, etc.) via email, and we do not have your email address, please send it to jbrown@dcrsd.org or mloughlin@dcrsd.org



The Dudley Middle School will no longer be mailing out the newsletters. You can go to the District web-site to review them. If you cannot access the website and would like a copy sent to you, please send a note to the school and one will be mailed out to you.



Pajama Bags 2019

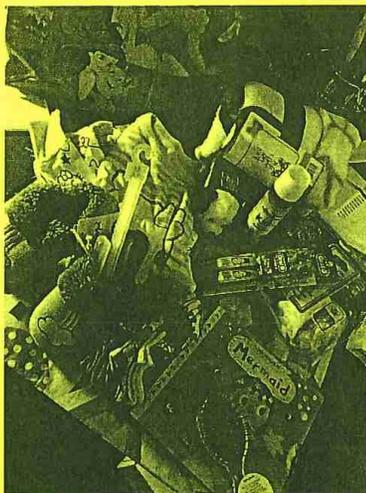
More than we would like to think, a child of any age can be removed from their family home for a variety of reasons. There is no time to have an adult gather belongings for the child to take with them to where they are going. This initial time can be so frightening for the child so we try to "take the edge off" by providing a pajama bag. You can choose the age of the child you wish to provide for and boy or girl. *Please just mark the bag boy or girl and the pajama size.*

THANK YOU for providing for a child in need!



Each pajama bag should include:

- A pair of pajamas
- A package of underwear
- Socks
- A stuffed animal (for a child 10 and under)
- A throw blanket (for a child 11 and up)
- An age appropriate book (or coloring book and crayons/colored pencils)
- A hair brush
- Tooth brush & tooth paste
- All in a reusable bag



THANK YOU!!

Lesia Patrock, Project Coordinator

lpatrock@dcrsd.org / 508-344-2942

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

* Hey 5th & 6th Graders *

The Six Flags Six Hour Reading Challenge is underway!



*Remember – All you need to do is **read for fun** and log your reading on the form you got from your teacher. You may read whatever you like: Comic books, Magazines, e-books, Fiction, Non-fiction, anything you enjoy! (You may not count anything that is assigned or required by a teacher.)

Make sure to finish reading and have your parents enter your hours online by **February 9, 2020!**

Every 5th & 6th grade student who does will receive a free ticket to Six Flags!
(... And get to be part of the "Make Your Own Sundae " party!)

You may read to someone, read with a friend, or read on your own.

Just have some fun reading and earn your free ticket. Don't miss out!

If you have any questions, see Mrs. Briere - your Library Media Specialist



DCEF ANNUAL APPEAL UNDERWAY

Each year, the Dudley-Charlton Education Foundation (DCEF) awards grants to educators in our district to fund the implementation of creative and exciting ideas that enhance the school experience for our students.



7 SCHOOLS



10 YEARS



\$286,265 IN GRANTS AWARDED



112 GRANTS AWARDED



SCIENCE ~ TECHNOLOGY ~ ENGINEERING ~ MATH
ENGLISH AND LANGUAGE ARTS ~ STUDENT WELLNESS ~ SCHOOL CULTURE ~ PERFORMING AND VISUAL ARTS



THOUSANDS OF STUDENTS IMPACTED

Please join with the DCEF Board of Directors and invest in the future of our district students by supporting our **11th Annual Appeal** which is running through March 31st. Our goal is \$25,000.

Donations may be made securely online at: www.dcedfoundation.org or by sending a check to:

DCEF
P.O. Box 92
Dudley, MA 01571



NEWS FROM THE NURSE

THE FLU IS HERE! There has been an increase in numbers of students with fever (temperature greater than 100.3 F), a congested cough and/or sore throat, a sick stomach, and general malaise. **Remember that *prevention of illness* is important to practice:**

Wash hands frequently, especially before eating or after blowing the nose- soap and water is best, if available, or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer. Remember that germs are easily spread from hands to mouth or face.

Practice good respiratory etiquette- cover a cough with your elbow or upper sleeve. Dispose of soiled tissues in the waste basket.

Practice social distancing when around someone who is sick. If you get sick with a fever (more than 100.3 F), stay home to recuperate. Don't share the wealth! **A student should be fever-free for at least 24 hours without use of fever-reducing medicine.** What are those medicines? Acetaminophen (Tylenol) and Ibuprofen (Motrin/Advil).

Use a thermometer to check a temperature for accuracy, and before giving the fever-reducing medicine noted previously.

HOW TO HANDLE the FLU:

See attached documents that help to explain how you can handle the flu!

[CLICK HERE](#) for more info regarding the flu



COLD VS. FLU: How to Tell the Difference

Are you coming down with a cold? Do you have the flu?

The table below show some differences and similarities between colds and flu.

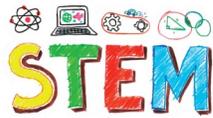
DIFFERENCES

WITH A COLD:	WITH THE FLU:
Symptoms are usually less severe than flu symptoms	Symptoms are usually more severe than cold symptoms
Symptoms develop gradually over a few days	Symptoms come on quickly and severely
You rarely have a fever	You almost always have a fever
You feel sick mostly in your head and nose	Your entire body feels sick
Body aches, headaches and pain are usually mild if you have them	Body aches, headaches and pain are common and can be severe
You may or may not feel tired and weak	Tiredness and weakness are common
There is no vaccine to protect you	You can get vaccine (a shot or the nasal spray) to protect yourself
There are no prescription medicines to treat colds	There are prescription medicines to treat the flu

SIMILARITIES

WITH A COLD AND THE FLU:
Caused by a virus
Affects the body's breathing system (nose, throat, windpipe and lungs)
Usually goes away on its own
You should contact your doctor if symptoms change or get worse

news from room 107



and



Grade 5 STEM classes are working on Balloon Cars ~ always a favorite. They are using a recycled box and making a race car out of it. There will be prizes for the fastest, farthest and best decorated car. Show your speed!



Grade 6 PLTW classes are designing toys and games for children with cerebral palsy. There are no other requirements for this project. The sky and their imagination is the limit. There are some awesome and creative toys being produced.



Grade 7 STEM classes are working with EV3 robots. They have been designing their bot, programming, and tweaking it to complete various tasks. Fun while learning math functions, programming, and having some patience.



Grade 8 STEM classes have designed their own cookie cutters on the 3D printer. They designed whatever interested them. Mrs. Hoffman then brought in ingredients to make sugar cookies. Students went to the exploratory room, made the dough, and next day cooked the cookies. A definite favorite anytime 8th graders get to eat!





NJHS

Recently the NJHS held an induction ceremony and welcomed a bunch of 7 & 8 graders into our midst. We are excited to hold events with our new members, and hope that they are just as motivated to help the community.



FEBRUARY 7
 Valentine's Day Dance
 Hosted by NJHS
 Open to Grades
 7 & 8



SPORTS



The Dudley Middle School basketball teams both participated in the Bartlett Christmas tournament. The four teams that played were Bartlett, Tourtellotte, Saint Joseph's, and Dudley Middle. The boys defended their title from last year, and the girls won their second title in three years, as well. The boys and girls both had two wins and no losses, going undefeated in the tournament.

-Luke Poirier



NEWS FROM FIFTH GRADE



Our 12th annual Spaghetti Dinner will be held February 6th (snow date Feb 13th) in the Dudley Middle School Cafeteria from 5-7pm. Students were sent home with a paper with details on how to participate. Parents, there are many ways to help support our yearly fundraiser, please contact your child's teacher if you need more information.



NEWS FROM SIXTH GRADE



Grade 6 has just completed the novel "The Watsons Go to Birmingham-1963". We recently started reading the novel "Hidden Figures" which contains the theme of ingenuity among the staff at NACA (The National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics). The staff were constantly improving upon or creating new inventions to improve airplanes during the time of World War II. When the war was over NACA would eventually become NASA. In the late 1940's as space exploration became a more popular idea NASA began to take shape and took its new name in 1958. Students in grade 6 will be showcasing their ingenuity by participating in the upcoming "Shark Tank" project. Students will be tasked with inventing, or improving upon an existing invention that benefits people in their everyday lives.



DODGEBALL TOURNAMENT!

Hosted by Grade 6

**COMING
SOON!**

**Be on the look out
for sign ups!**



NEWS FROM SEVENTH GRADE

Both teams in Grade 7 have already accomplished a lot this year. Earlier this year both the Wolves and the Ducks read *The Black Cauldron*. Afterwards, the Wolves were assigned a theme essay to complete based off of the book. They related a theme found in the book to two characters in the novel, and to their own lives. On the other side of the hall, the Ducks made and presented their own projects based off the book. The 7-2 students also participated in an Escape Room. The room was figurative language themed to prepare them for everyone's next unit, Figurative Language. Although none of the teams made it out, they learned a lot and tested the abilities of their minds. The wolves are already preparing for MCAS. Recently they read an excerpt from *The Lost Years of Merlin* and finished the story in their own creative way. In their writing they practiced using figurative language and writing tricks like the Magic 3 and Repetition for Effect. Every Wednesday the teams come together to work on the new school paper, *The Titan Times*. Make sure you keep an eye out for the custom boxes made by Shepherd Hill students and the first edition of our paper.

In Ancient History both teams had the opportunity to see an Egyptologist who came to our school. The Egyptologist gave us all an outstanding presentation on Ancient Egypt, its historical events and culture. It was an amazing experience packed with tons of facts and fun from mummies to makeup. 'Til next time,
7-1 Wolves, 7-2 Ducks

Lindsey Paradise, Hannah Rucci, and Alex Giarnese





UPCOMING EVENTS

- JANUARY 7** - Basketball Game - HOME vs. Charlton Middle School 3:45 pm (boys first)
- JANUARY 9** - Basketball Game - HOME vs. Trottier Middle School 4:35 pm (boys first)
- JANUARY 13** - Band Concert - Grades 5 & 8 - 6:30 pm
- JANUARY 14** - Basketball Game - AWAY @ Whitcomb Middle School 3:45 pm (boys first)
- JANUARY 16** - Basketball Game - AWAY @ Oak Middle School 3:45 pm (boys first)
- JANUARY 17** - EARLY RELEASE (11:20 am)- Staff Professional Development
- JANUARY 18** - DMS Show Choir @ Lowell High School
- JANUARY 20** - NO SCHOOL - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- JANUARY 22** - Geography Bee - 1:00 pm
- JANUARY 23** - Basketball Game - HOME vs. Melican Middle School 3:45 pm (girls first)
- JANUARY 24** - NJHS Field Trip to Worcester State
- JANUARY 25** - DMS Colorguard NESBA Show - Salem High School
- JANUARY 28** - Basketball Game - HOME vs. Gibbons Middle School 3:45 pm (girls first)
- JANUARY 30** - Basketball Game - AWAY @ Charlton Middle School 3:45 pm (girls first)
- JANUARY 31** - Report Cards Posted to Portal - 3:00 pm
- Basketball Game - HOME vs. Tantasqua Jr. High School 3:00 pm (girls first)
 - Central MA Show Choir Festival @ SHRHS
- FEBRUARY 6** - Grade 5 Spaghetti Dinner
- FEBRUARY 7** - Valentine's Day Dance—Grades 7 & 8
- FEBRUARY 8** - DMS Show Choir @Tantasqua
- FEBRUARY 11** - Math Team Field Trip to WPI
- FEBRUARY 17 - 21** - NO SCHOOL - President's Day / Winter Break
- FEBRUARY 27 & 28** - American Heart Association 3-on-3 Tournament (after school)



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504 Coordinator

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Grades 5 and 7
Guidance Counselor
504 Coordinator

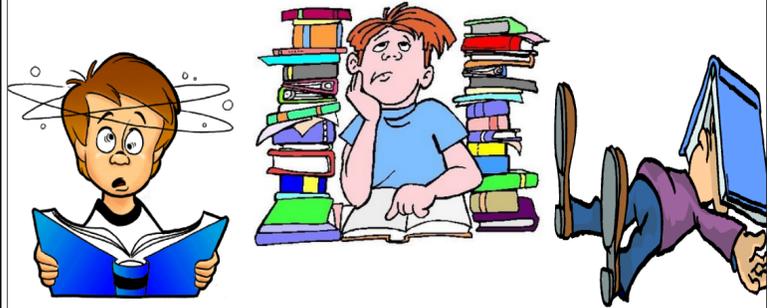
www.dcrsd.org



"...to advance the knowledge and well being of our children and our community."

Need Help with Homework?

Confused? Overwhelmed? Questions?



Come visit the **Study Center** to get help
with a **Shepherd Hill High School** tutor!

Where: **Library**

When: **Tuesdays**

Time: **2:40-3:40**

See Ms. Incutto in Guidance
with any questions!

