

DUDLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS
OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2018



Christopher E. Starczewski, Principal

“Two Words”

Dear DMS Families,

When you think about Dudley Middle School, two words should come to mind: **“Students First”**. Each day, faculty and staff at DMS arrive to our school and are excited for what is to come, and act in the interest of “Students First”. With this focus, DMS is a standout school amongst others in that these two words summarize our mission. “Students First”.

Celebrating Talents of our students is something that we strive to do on a regular basis. Many students participate in and excel at band, chorus, drama, or show choir. A large number of students participate in athletics both competitive interscholastic and club. Beyond the performing arts and athletics, recognition of academic achievement is celebrated formally (Honor Roll, Student of the Month, classroom and team celebrations) and informally; hopefully, this is something that is done at home often to help reinforce the hard work and dedicated efforts that your child puts in. Talent is cultivated over time and it is important to acknowledge all aspects of the collective talents of our students ~ if your child is not involved in a school-based activity, I encourage you to take advantage of the opportunities in our community that involve middle-school aged students.

Academic Excellence is the overarching goal that we have for all students. We want each child to meet with success. The definition for success that I feel is most powerful is that shared by legendary UCLA basketball coach, John Wooden: “Success is peace of mind in knowing that you have given the very best of which you are capable of giving.” If at the end of each school day, marking period, school year, each student can reflect back upon their academic experience and view it as successful, we have achieved Academic Excellence. This is not about metrics and data alone (MCAS, unit tests, project grades, etc); do not get me wrong...these are very important measurements of performance that we can use to both showcase strengths and identify areas for growth. This is about cultivating a personal belief system that we can learn, we can adapt, we can overcome, and we can accomplish things greater than we thought possible.

Inside this issue:

Principal	1/2
Assistant Principal	3
From the Office	4/5
Box Tops/Pull Tabs	6
Counselor's Corner	7/8
Nurse	9
NJHS	9
LEGO Wall	10
After School	11
5th Grade	12
6th Grade	12
7th Grade	13
8th Grade	14
Health	14
Upcoming Events	15/16

(Principal continued from page 1)

Civility & Respect are the cornerstones upon which we build greatness. We expect all members of our learning community (and hope that our larger community and world will) to embrace. Each morning we begin our school day with morning announcements that conclude with a message of positivity, a message of inclusiveness, or a challenge meant to make that day better than the day before. We expect students to learn from errors, embrace failure as opportunity, and identify how others fit into their world.

Students First is a mindset that ensures decisions are made, actions are taken, and reflections lead to adjustments for bettering the school experience. Two words are not typically used as a summary of all that is planned or accomplished, but here at DMS, two words is all that we really need: **Students First.**

Thank you,

Chris



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.



Michael Tucker – Assistant Principal

I would like to take an opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Michael Tucker, and I am the new Assistant Principal here at Dudley Middle School. I cannot stress enough how fortunate I feel to be able to have this opportunity to work together with the Dudley Middle School community. I consider myself a journey man so far in my professional career. While I have been in the education field since graduating college, I have spent time in several schools and grade levels, by design.

Before beginning my next chapter of life at Dudley Middle School, I have worked in Maryland, Somerville MA, and Grafton MA. I have taught Kindergarten, 3rd grade, 6th grade ELA, Social Studies, and Math and 7th grade Social Studies. I also gained experiences working in the Residential setting with students who are diagnosed with Autism. Most recently, I had the opportunity to serve as one of the Assistant Principals at Millbury Street Elementary School in Grafton.

Outside of Dudley Middle School, I am a father of two wonderful girls. I enjoy playing PS4, fishing, watching football and riding dirt bikes in my free time. I am a huge Chicago Bears fan! One goal of mine in the next few years, is to start up a strong wrestling program here at Dudley Middle School.

It seems like just yesterday that we were on summer break. It has been a very entertaining, and a real privilege, getting to know the students and staff here at Dudley Middle School. In a short amount of time, I have had the opportunity to experience some of the fantastic things that make Dudley Middle School an outstanding place to learn. I've had the pleasure of meeting some of you, and look forward to the opportunity to meet those of you who I have not crossed paths with. If you see me around school or in the public, please introduce yourself to me.

In an effort to prepare your students for a successful school day, please remind them daily to do their homework, study and go to bed early. Please make sure to get them to school on time, or in time for breakfast, so that they are ready every morning to have a successful school day. I believe it is our job to work together to provide students with the resources and environment to guide them in meeting Dudley Middle School's high expectations. It is also very helpful to motivate your students to achieve success and encourage them to do great things. If your student is not part of any extra-curricular activities, encourage them to join an After School club, Intramural, DMS sponsored team or join a club or team outside of school.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding any aspect of your student's Dudley Middle School experience, please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

Home-School Communication

Additional to the communication you will soon establish with your child's teachers, please note the following mechanisms utilized by the DMS administration:

1. **E-mail** - If you would like to receive communication (newsletters, important notices, etc.) via e-mail and we do not yet have your address, please send it to mloughlin@dcrsd.org or jbrown@dcrsd.org.
2. **Also, you can keep up with news and happenings at DMS in any of the following ways:**
 - ◇ Our **website** – www.dcrsd.org/schools/Dudley-middle
 - ◇ **Facebook** (@DMSTITANS)
 - ◇ **Twitter** - @DMS_LeadLearner

We look forward to establishing positive communication with you for the benefit of your child.

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STUDENTS BEING DISMISSED—STUDENTS TARDY

Students who are being dismissed early must:

*Bring in an acceptable note signed by a parent/guardian with the following information:

1. Student name
2. Reason for dismissal
3. Time of dismissal
4. Person picking up student and a telephone number to confirm if necessary



Bring this note to the main office or homeroom teacher, as per school practice, during homeroom.

Parents and guardians are required to pick up their children at the middle school main office. People picking up students may be required to show a picture ID and sign out the student.

Students who come in late to school must:

*Bring an acceptable note signed by a parent/guardian;

*Upon entering school, **check in with the main office and obtain a late slip.**

If the student fails to bring in a note, a parent may be notified.

Unsubstantiated tardies in excess of eight may result in a parent conference and/or after school detentions.

PLEASE NOTE—an absence or tardy is only EXCUSED with a Doctor's note

DUDLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

TELEPHONE:

508-943-2224

Fax 508-949-0720

DISTRICT WEBSITE:

www.dcrsd.org

CAR RIDERS:

Students should **not** be dropped off prior to **7:35**. Proper supervision may not be available until that time. Students will be dropped off in the front of the building in sequence with buses.

DAILY SCHEDULE:

a.m. Routine - 7:25 a.m. Bus drop-off begins

7:35 a.m. **Parents drop-off begins**

7:37 a.m. Students to lockers/
homerooms

7:50 a.m. OFFICIAL START OF SCHOOL DAY

8:00 a.m. First class of the day begins

p.m. Routine - 2:22 PM OFFICIAL END OF THE SCHOOL DAY

2:22 p.m. First bus dismissal or
as called by office

2:28 p.m. Second bus dismissal



IMPORTANT MESSAGE ABOUT STUDENTS' CHANGING BUSES

Please note that according to the Middle School Handbook, ***“students are not allowed to ride any bus other than the one assigned to them unless they must go to another destination for childcare or other emergency purposes.”*** The student must have a **signed note** from a parent/guardian explaining the reason for the bus change and the **name and address** of the place they are going. A bus pass from the DMS office will then be issued. If you have any questions about this procedure or have special circumstances that need to be discussed, please call the DMS office.



LUNCH:

Students' cost for lunch is **\$2.90**.

There are four lunches scheduled between 11:00 am— 12:20 pm. Students will eat with their appropriate grade. A choice of meals is offered every day. ***Pre-paying for lunch is encouraged. Check out the on line payment website - www.myschoolbucks.com/ or call DMS office for details. Send in a check payable to: Dudley Middle School. Make sure your child's name and ID number are listed on the check.***

STUDENTS WITH A NEGATIVE OR \$0.00 BALANCE WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO CHARGE A SECOND LUNCH

DISMISSAL: Students **riding buses will be dismissed at approximately 2:22 p.m.** In order to avoid congestion and to provide for the safety of students, **car riders will be dismissed at 2:35 p.m.** We ask for your cooperation with student dismissal.

Car riders may be picked up in front of the school **after the buses leave**. Should you have an early appointment, plan to dismiss your child prior to 2:00 p.m. Please send a note with your child with the time of dismissal. No car riders will be dismissed between 2:00 p.m. and 2:35 p.m. due to the buses coming down the hill from the high school.

COMMUNITY PORTAL

The parent portal is a way to access important information regarding your child's assignments, grades, schedule and attendance. If you have an email on file, you will have access to the portal. If you're having trouble logging in, or need assistance, please contact the office at 508-943-2224.





EARN CASH FOR OUR SCHOOL WITH BOX TOPS!

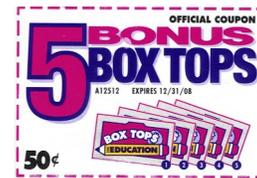
CLIP BOX TOPS

- Hundreds of participating products, including products you probably already buy
- Each clip is worth 10¢ for our school, and they add up fast!
- Our school can use the Box Tops cash to buy whatever it needs

-SEE ALL PARTICIPATING PRODUCTS AT BTFE.COM/PRODUCTS-

EARN BONUS BOX TOPS (THAT'S EXTRA \$ FOR OUR SCHOOL!)

- Online sweepstakes
- In-store offers
- Special offers through the Box Tops Bonus App



Pull Tabs for the Children of the Shriners Burns Hospital

Save your pull tabs - Dudley Middle School collects soda can and soup can **"Pull Tabs"** for the Shriners Hospitals for Children in the Massachusetts area. The Aluminum Tab Project has been an endeavor started by the Ladies Oriental Shrine of North America as a fun way to earn extra dollars to benefit the children at their Hospitals.

Collecting **"Pull Tabs"** is the easiest way to support children in need, namely because it costs no money to put aside the "Pull Tab" from a soda or can of soup. Together, we can help Shriners help children in need.

Frequently Asked Questions:

◇ How Can I Help?

Save dry **"Pull Tabs"** from your personal use and send them to Dudley Middle School. Together, we can make a difference.

◇ How are "Pull Tabs" Recycled?

Tabs will be delivered to The Shriners Burns Hospital in Boston, MA where volunteers will sort them. Then, they are taken to an area recycler to be weighed and sold as scrap aluminum. Other youth groups, schools, business, and the like collect pull tabs throughout New England.

◇ Who Benefits from This Program?

The beneficiary for the value of the scrap metal will be the Children of the Shriners Burns Hospital in Boston, MA. Non-medical items are purchased with the funds, including (but not limited to,) educational computer programs and games, arts and crafts materials, books, videos, and playroom equipment that contribute to overall happiness during a child's stay.

Counselors Corner

Attention Parents: "IT'S OK TO SAY NO"

Despite of all the technology we have today, and despite what your children may be telling you, not all middle school children have phones, snapchat, Instagram, Musical.ly, etc. (especially 5th and 6th graders). It takes a good amount of emotional maturity to handle social media sites. If your child has displayed some good mature and responsible behaviors such as working on homework, completing their household chores, going outside for at least one hour to get some exercise, they might be ready for the use of a smart phone. Remember, you are the boss so talk to your child and do not be afraid to set the ground rules.

Follow the rules.

Children under 13 years of age should not open an online account without parental consent.

Besides the legal issue, maturity issues are of concern. Children from 9-11 years old still think concretely and haven't yet developed the ability to consider hypothetical situations. According to Michael Rich, MD, director of the Center on Media and Child Health at Boston Children's Hospital, "Some kids may be ready to handle social media under the age of 13, but most probably can't. You are the best judge of your child." Children who are 13 or older tend to be more developmentally ready to handle social media and will get adult help when something seems inappropriate or overwhelming.

Tell your kids to think before they post

Remind them that usually once they post something on a web or app site, it will most likely be there forever, even if they delete it. Let them know that when they post something online, their classmates not only will see it but strangers might as well. Rule of thumb should be: would my parents or grandparents be offended at one of my posts? If the answer is yes, do not post. For middle school kids, it's a good idea for parents to have access to what their kids are doing online to be sure that what's being posted is appropriate. Insist on knowing what their passwords are and monitor their browsing history as best you can.

You are the parent first and not their friend

Don't be afraid to offend them or make them angry by saying no! Do what's right to keep your child safe online.



Counselors Corner

EIGHTH GRADE INFO

WHAT'S GOING ON?

SEP

11

Bay Path counselor, Mr. Dekker, met with all 8th grade students, and delivered a brief presentation about Bay Path programs, and answered questions

OCT

12

All 8th grade students will go, by bus, to tour Bay Path—permission slips required

OCT

15

Parent Informational Meeting about Shepherd Hill @ DMS, 6:30 PM

OCT

16

All 8th grade students will walk to Shepherd Hill for a brief presentation and tour

Bay Path Open House

OCT

16

6:00—8:00 PM

new this year!



Bay Path applications are now completed and submitted [ONLINE!](#) Parents, if your student is seriously considering Bay Path, please spend the time to complete the application with him/her. If you have questions regarding the application process, please contact Bay Path directly. After you submit, Bay Path will contact DMS Guidance, who will then submit all requested supplemental documents on your child's behalf.

Parent Informational Meeting

“Your Hometown School”

Pride, Unity, and Excellence

Who: parents of 7th and 8th grade students

What: Choosing SHRHS

When: October 15 6:30 p.m.

Where: Dudley Middle School Auditorium

Why: Presentation and Q/A





NEWS FROM THE NURSE

FIGHT THE FLU—Get the Flu Vaccine!

FLU CLINIC

At Dudley Elementary School on
Tuesday, October 30, 2018

*****Hearing and vision screening will be conducted for all students in grades 5 and 7 during the month of October until completed. Please send your student to school with glasses if they are prescribed for him/her**



NJHS

NJHS News

By Grace Bateman- Public Relations

It's a new year for NJHS and we have already started doing a few things. On Saturday Sept. 22 we went to Community Harvest Farm in Grafton. We volunteered weeding celery and helping with winter preparations by pulling up what seemed like miles of weed reducing plastic. We are also going to be walking in the annual **Kick Cancer to the Curb** fundraiser on October 20th. Even though we are a small group this fall, we are close knit and ready to have a great year!

Stop in and see the new DMS LEGO WALL

Created by Susan Briere—Library Media Specialist, her husband Jerry, and Mark Andre, thanks to a grant from



DUDLEY-CHARLTON
EDUCATION FOUNDATION



To make our Lego wall even better...

If you have any Lego you could donate, we will put it to good use, here at DMS. Please drop it off in the Library or in the Main Office.

THANK YOU!!!

~Mrs. Briere, and the students of DMS

Ski Club Announcement!!!!



It's that time of year!!! Dudley Middle School is once again organizing a ski and snowboard club in conjunction with Mount Wachusett Ski Area. This year I hope to continue with the opportunity for more of our students and families to participate in skiing and boarding. It doesn't matter if you are a beginning skier or an experienced snowboarder, fun will be had by all. Encourage a friend to join, take lessons or make new friends! Last year approximately 90 students participate in the program, riding on two buses, with younger siblings, parents and grandparents participating. Additionally, 12 parents shared the 10-parent chaperone badges.

Once again this year the ski club will be:

Expanding club membership to student's grades five – eight, family members, including siblings, parents

and residents. All who wish to join us for the six weeks may also purchase tickets, lessons and rentals as well as century passes through the school discount program. This year the Six Week program will begin Wednesday, January 2nd, 2019. The cost will be \$120 for the Six Week program and the Bronze pass purchased through the school will be \$269.

This year the cost for round trip motor coach transportation has increased to \$90 per student for the six weeks; still a deal for door-to-door service at \$15 per trip! If you have ever had to lug your equipment from the far end of the lot, then you know this is a deal!

If you or your child is interested please contact me for general information, questions and answers as well as rental fees and lessons. Please e-mail me so I can include you in the ski club e-mail group regarding general information and announcements. cstrazzullo@dcrsd.org

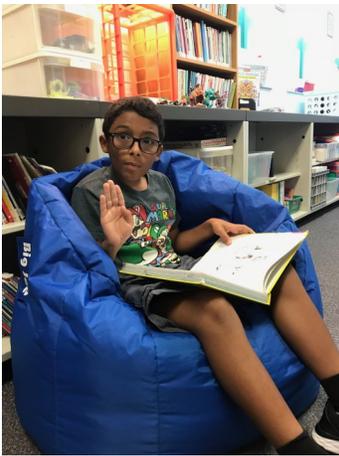


FALL 2018 AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS



DAY	CLASS	TEACHER	TIME
MONDAY	Cooking	Mrs. Eagleton	2:40—3:40
TUESDAY	Cooking	Mrs. Hegedus	2:40—3:40
	Walking Club	Mrs. Packard	2:40—3:40
	Cartooning	Sgt. Poplawski	2:40—3:40
	MineCraft	Mrs. Hoffman	2:40—3:40
WEDNESDAY	Cooking	Mrs. Daniels	2:40—3:40
	DMS Girls Rock!	Ms. Incutto	2:40—3:40
THURSDAY	Cooking	Ms. Stefanik	2:40—3:40
	MineCraft	Mrs. Hoffman	2:40—3:40
FRIDAY	Cooking	Mrs. Hoffman	2:40—3:40

NEWS FROM FIFTH GRADE



We have had a great month getting to know the newest members of our school community.

Please make sure to check :

- *the “Parent Communication” pocket of your child’s folder*
- *your child’s agenda for homework assignments and messages from the teachers daily*
- *team blogs*
- *supplies that may need to be replenished*

Also, please be sure that your child is bringing healthy items for a snack. Remember that only water is allowed in the classrooms.

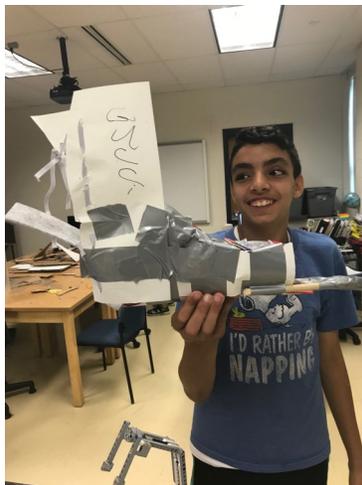
Classroom donations are always appreciated. We are always in need of tissues, Clorox wipes, hand soap and paper towels.

November 8 is “Bring a Veteran to School Day”. Please check your child’s folder for details on how to participate.

NEWS FROM SIXTH GRADE



The sixth grade class has been working very hard on their “Expert Projects”



NEWS FROM SEVENTH GRADE

Team Building Day

Abby Boggio, Joanna Lepper, Heidi Jarosz

Seventh Grade is ruling the downstairs! We had a Team Building Day recently, and it was a blast! On our teams we worked together in various activities such as balloon races, cup stacking, puzzles, solving a maze, assembly line helicopters that allowed the seventh graders to build friendships and team-working skills. In each class there were activities that encouraged us to work together as a group in order to complete it. Everyone was cheering everyone on, making it even more exciting. We were successful in most activities, and though it got competitive at times, it was still a blast! What a great way to start off an amazing year!



NEWS FROM EIGHTH GRADE



Eighth grade is off to a strong start in classrooms and looking forward to the future. English classes are reading *The Giver* and students are enjoying debating about whether it's a utopia or a dystopia. The more debate, the better the Utopian projects will be!! Science classes are working on moon phases and tides, math classes are picking up steam after a Chapter 1 test that got everyone back in the swing of things and History has packed a bag and moved to Ancient India.



Eighth grade really has eyes on the future, and towards that end we will be going on in district high school visits during the month of October.. We travel to Bay Path on Friday the 12th and hike up to the Hill on Wednesday the 16th. High school decisions will be here before we know it!

In addition to all the hard work, we are also beginning to plan the grade 8 trip to the Hanover to see *A Christmas Carol* on Dec. 20- more to follow as we get closer!



DMS health students in Ms. Falcone and Ms. Eagleton's classes started the year by creating their "Best Part of Me" visuals. Their work was based on the book by Wendy Ewald. Their amazing displays can be found throughout the school during the month of October. This project was a terrific way to begin the new schoolyear, as the activity enabled students to take some time to think about and appreciate themselves and the many ways they make this world wonderful.





UPCOMING EVENTS

- OCTOBER 2**—Soccer Game—AWAY—Chocksett Middle School
- Cross Country Meet—AWAY—Millbury Jr/Sr High
- OCTOBER 4**—Soccer Game—HOME vs. Whitcomb Middle School
- OCTOBER 5**—No School for students—Staff Professional Development Day
- OCTOBER 8**—No School—Columbus Day
- OCTOBER 9**—Soccer Game—HOME vs. Charlton Middle School
- OCTOBER 10**—Girls' Night Out
- Soccer Game—AWAY—Tantasqua Jr. High School
- OCTOBER 11**—Soccer Game—AWAY—Mountview Middle School
- OCTOBER 12**—8th Grade students to tour Bay Path High School
- Cross Country Meet—HOME vs. Auburn Middle School
- Soccer Game—HOME vs. Mountview Middle School
- OCTOBER 15**—"Your Hometown School" - presentation at Shepherd Hill—6:30 PM
- OCTOBER 16**—8th Grade students to tour Shepherd Hill
- Cross Country Meet—HOME vs. Grafton and Uxbridge Middle Schools
- Soccer Game—AWAY—Central Tree Middle School
- OCTOBER 17**—"I've Got Your Back" Anti-Bullying Assembly—Grades 5 & 6
- Parent Informational Meeting—"Vaping" - 6-7:00 @SH Auditorium
- OCTOBER 18**—Cross Country—Tantasqua Invitational
- Soccer Game—HOME vs. Chocksett Middle School
- OCTOBER 19**—Family Movie Night—hosted by Student Council
- OCTOBER 21**—PTO Fall Festival @ Dudley Elementary
- OCTOBER 23**—Cross Country Meet—HOME vs. Charlton Middle School
- OCTOBER 26**—Mummy Miler (anyone welcome)
- Halloween Dance 6:00—8:30
- OCTOBER 29**—Cross Country—Central Mass Invitational
- OCTOBER 30**—Community Reading Day
- OCTOBER 31**—5th and 6th Grade Halloween Social—2:30—4:30

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508-943-2224
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Lisa Incutto
Grade 7 and 8 Guidance
Counselor
504 Coordinator

www.dcrsd.org



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



UPCOMING EVENTS

(CONTINUED)

NOVEMBER 5—NOVEMBER 9—Scholastic Book Fair
NOVEMBER 8—Early Release—**Parent/Teacher Conferences**
NOVEMBER 9—Grade 5 “Bring a Veteran to School Day”
NOVEMBER 10—UMASS Band Day @ Gillette Stadium
NOVEMBER 12—No School—Veteran’s Day, Observed
NOVEMBER 21—Early Release—Thanksgiving Break
NOVEMBER 22—No School—Thanksgiving Day
NOVEMBER 23—No School—Thanksgiving Break

The Scholastic

BOOK FAIR

Is coming this Fall!

Save the date!



Classes visit and shop on
Tuesday, November 6th or
Wednesday, November 7th

**Bring the whole family during
Parent/Teacher conferences on
November 8th!**