

UPDATES FROM THE PRINCIPALS



NOVEMBER
EDITION



WHAT'S
HAPPENING?

Hello to all the parents/guardians of our Seaford Middle School students!

So you blink and we are in November already! The clocks go back, it gets darker sooner, it gets colder, and the leaves are coming down! But middle school keeps on chugging along!

A lot of wonderful things happened in our school over the past few weeks:

- We celebrated Halloween and had our students come to school decked out in awesome costumes.
- Our World Language Department decorated the lobby to celebrate Dia de los Muertos which added to the Halloween fun.
- We had a very successful and enjoyable 8th grade Fall Ball hosted by our awesome PTSA 8th Grade Dance Committee. Thank you to the parents, teachers, and alumnus - DJ Nick Fischetti, who all pitched in to make it a memorable event!
- Our 8th graders also took their class photo in and out of school, which will be used in their yearbooks.
- We welcomed back Ms. Spellman (6th grade teacher) from her leave and we are happy to report that we were able to keep Ms. Rispoli (her leave replacement) as a permanent substitute in our building!

- Our Fall Sports season drew to an end with all our athletes competing and representing our school with pride – now the Winter I season is gearing up.
- Our sixth graders attended their annual field trips to the Vanderbilt Museum and planetarium.
- The first quarter ended on Friday, November 3rd and report cards will be coming out on November 15th.

Looking ahead, the sign-ups for Parent Teacher Conferences will be on the Middle School website this Tuesday. Conferences happen on Monday evening, November 20th, from 6 pm - 8 pm, Tuesday afternoon, November 21st, from 12:30 pm - 2:30 pm, and Tuesday evening, November 21st, from 6 pm - 8 pm. If you cannot make any of those times or will be away - no worries - parents/guardians can always email or call the teachers, or have a team meeting arranged through the Guidance Department at a later date.

There are two half-days for students on Tuesday and Wednesday, November 21st, and 22nd. Students arrive at the normal time on these days and then are dismissed at 11 am with typical bus runs at that time. The Thanksgiving Break runs from Thursday, November 23rd to Sunday, November 25th.

Mr. Polite and I want to wish you all a restful, enjoyable, and turkey-filled time with friends and family. Before you know it, we will be enjoying our Holiday Concerts and gearing up for the new year!

As always thanks for your ongoing support!
Dan Smith - Principal



SEAFORDMSPRIDE

MY CHILD ATTENDS SEAFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL BUT WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

Seaford Middle School.....what is meant when we call a school a “middle school?” Most school districts across Long Island have middle schools. I grew up in Queens and attended a Junior High School (JHS 226 in Ozone Park to be exact). So what is the difference?

People will sometimes think it has to do with grade levels - Not necessarily. Middle Schools vary from district to district. Some have grades 5-8, 6-8, 7 & 8, and even 7-9 in some rare cases. Instead, it is the philosophy and construct that makes a middle school a middle school! A junior high school is just that – a school with younger students with a high school type schedule. Junior high schools began at the beginning of the 20th century with the first school opening in Ohio in 1909. A middle school is much more.

The middle school movement began in the 60’s and 70’s across America. During the 1980’s we saw advancement and progress in middle school philosophy with elements such as teaming, advisories, and curriculum specific to the age group. A middle school philosophy looks to assist students in that transitional time between the elementary model of education and the secondary model, focusing not just on academics but social and emotional growth as well. Teaming is a cornerstone. Creating teams of teachers with students so that they get to know the students better and can assist with their journey ensures that students do not get lost during the transitional years. Advisory programs like our A.S.K. program (Advice and Support for Kids) are implemented to go beyond the curriculum to assist our students with topics ranging from organization and study skills to goal setting and positive decision making.

Next week we will hold our first teaming event where teams will enjoy some fun while delineating them with colors (8th grade= green or white, 7th grade = blue or red, and 6th grade = orange, yellow, or purple). It will be the first of a number of events over the school year to build a sense of community, identity, and school spirit.

Seaford Middle School is a true middle school. We have a nine-period day, block scheduling in a number of areas, teaming, an advisory program, and common planning and meeting times for teachers and our PPS department. In the coming months, we will be reviewed by the NYS Middle School Association’s Schools to Watch Program and will be delineated as either a “NYS Rising Star” or a “NYS Schools to Watch.” We continue to strive to do the best we can for this unique age group of children and help them on their journey towards high school. We can all be proud of our school!

