

The Memorial Message

School Parent Newsletter

November

National Parent Involvement Day 11/16



Principal: Mr. E. Brown

Asst. Principal: R. Ahmed &
S. Marshall

What's New?

The Yondr Program- We are continuing with making our school a phone-free space to improve teaching and learning!

We will be using a system called [Yondr](#) to achieve this goal. Yondr has been used across the world in over 1,000 schools, as well as at concerts, comedy shows, businesses, camps, weddings and special events of all kinds. The goal of these spaces is to encourage people to engage with each other and their surroundings.

We believe that cell phones have great utility. We have also found that learning and social behavior improve drastically when students are fully engaged with their teachers and classmates.

Recognition Day for November

- Substitute Teacher Day 11/3
- Educational Support Professionals Day 11/17
- National Parent Involvement Day 11/16
- National Diabetes Month-November
- World Kindness Day 11/13

Looking For a Good Read

- Thrivers: The Surprising Reasons Why Some Kids Struggle and Others Shine. by [Michele Borba](#)
- Parenting the New Teen in the Age of Anxiety: A

Complete Guide to Your Child's Stressed, Depressed, Expanded, Amazing Adolescence by [Dr. John Duffy](#)



Here's an IT (Instructional Tip)

The first months of middle school. I remember it like it was yesterday – the first time with lockers, changing classes, gyms with locker rooms, all while your body is changing the most it has since birth. It can be scary and anxiety inducing for preteens facing new expectations and the unknowns of a new school. And just as scary for parents navigating and managing their preteen's emotions, hormones and all the newfound freedoms that come with middle school. Here are 5 tips to keep in mind when sending your student to middle school.

- 1 – Preparation is Key
- 2 – Stay Calm & Positive
- 3 – Encourage Your Child To Get Involved
- 4 – Let Your Child Take the Lead & Be Themselves
- 5 – Keep In Touch

Dates to Act-On

- Nov. 17th End of the 1st marking period
- Nov. 17th -18th Parent conferences
- Nov. 24th Early Dismissal
- Nov. 25th-26th Thanksgiving Recess
- Nov. 30th Report Cards

Upcoming Events

- Dec. 13th School Closed
- Dec. 23rd Early Dismissal

Corner to Corner

Principal's Corner



4 Month Series on Trauma-Informed Schools:

What is an (ACE)

The most recent data from Child Trends indicate that 45 percent of children in the United States have experienced at least one **Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE)** that could be trauma-inducing such as abuse or neglect, violence, discrimination, bullying, natural disasters, or death of a loved one. However, the two most common ACEs are economic hardship and the separation or divorce of a parent or guardian. Nationwide, 61 percent of black children and 51 percent of Hispanic children have experienced at least one ACE compared to only 40 percent of their white peers.

Physiological changes to children's brains as well as emotional and behavioral responses to trauma have the potential to interfere with children's learning, school engagement, and academic success—even years after the trauma took place. Researchers have also identified a "cycle of trauma" in schools when teachers' rules and consequences are viewed as punishment by children, increasing the likelihood of retraumatization and exclusionary discipline practices. Schools with higher incidents of ACEs also have higher rates of suspensions and unexcused absences and lower graduation rates and postsecondary participation.

Please take the time to read the article:

<https://traumasensitiveschools.org/trauma-and-learning/the-solution-trauma-sensitive-schools/>

Spreading kindness and compassion

We hear a lot about teaching children to be kind and compassionate toward each other. But what does that look like in middle school? Consider these ideas for encouraging your child to show kindness and compassion.

Reach out

- Suggest that your middle grader get involved in a school or community activity that promotes compassion. He/She could be a "Best Buddy" for a classmate with special needs.

Start a habit

- Encourage family members to be kind and compassionate toward each other, and talk about what those acts could be. They may be as simple as doing the dishes for Dad when he's tired or sending an encouraging text to a sibling before a big game.

Counselor's Corner - Mr. Dirvin & Ms. Lepping



Today's young people are living in an exciting time, with an increasingly diverse society, new technologies, and expanding opportunities. To help ensure that they are prepared to become the

next generation of parents, workers, leaders and citizens, every student needs support, guidance and opportunities during adolescence, a time of rapid growth and change.

Early adolescents face unique and diverse challenges, both personally and developmentally, that have an impact on academic achievement.

Middle School Students' Developmental Needs

Middle school is an exciting, yet challenging time for students, their parents and teachers. During this passage from childhood to adolescence, middle school students are characterized by a need to explore a variety of interests, connecting their learning in the classroom to its practical application in life and work; high levels of activity coupled with frequent fatigue due to rapid growth; a search for their own unique identity as they begin turning more frequently to peers rather than parents for ideas and affirmation; extreme sensitivity to the comments from others; and heavy reliance on friends to provide comfort, understanding and approval.

Turning tech time into offline fun

Like a lot of kids, my daughter Sydney's go-to form of entertainment is always something electronic. We limit how much time she can spend on screens, but when time's up, she complains that she's bored. Then one day, she asked if I could take her to the dollar store. She wanted to try making her own lip gloss, an idea she discovered on Pinterest. Using her allowance, she bought supplies, came home, and experimented with the instructions she had printed out. The next time she asked for screen time, I suggested that she spend part of it looking for an offline activity to do afterward. She decided to search for recipes, and she found one for strawberry cheesecake that she plans to make. I can't wait to taste it!

Lunch

All students will have free lunch for the 21-22 school year. Parents must fill out lunch applications.

<https://www.state.nj.us/education/finance/fp/psd/cnp/aapplication.pdf>

Vaccination Clinic

The Willingboro School district will sponsor a vaccination clinic for 5-11-year-old students. The first dose will be administered on November 19, 2021, from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. and the second dose will be administered on December 10, 2021, from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. Students must be able to attend both days. The maximum number of vaccinations that will be administered is 150.

Please click on the link below to complete the registration survey for the clinic. Vaccinations will be given on a first come first serve basis. The survey will be closed when we have reached the 150 capacity for vaccinations.



[COVID-19 VACCINATION CLINIC REGISTRATION](#)



Parent Conference

Parent/Guardian-Teacher Conferences are more important than ever. These valuable meetings will secure ample opportunities for parents/guardians to ask questions, learn about their child's academic progress and share concerns. Teachers are eager to discuss student achievement and offer professional support. Memorial Middle School parents will be able to schedule conferences on the following dates: November **17th & 18th** Please note **evening conferences** will be available on **Wednesday, November 17th from 6:30pm to 8:30pm**. Afternoon conferences on Thursday will be held from 1:00-2:50 PM Monday, November 15th, an email and text will be sent to inform parents how to schedule Parent-Teacher Conferences.