



# **Nitschmann Middle School**

## **Team Penn State**

**2017 - 2018**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

August 2017

Welcome to 7th grade on Team Penn State! We are excited to meet your son/daughter and are confident that the students will have an exceptional 7th grade year at Nitschmann. We're eager about the opportunity to get to know you and your student and we're looking forward to a happy and productive school year. Studies show that parental involvement in a child's education is one of the strongest indicators of student achievement. This involvement includes checking planners, checking the parent portal for your child's grades and discussing the day's activities. Seventh grade is also a transitional year when students need to learn to self advocate and communicate independently with their teachers. We appreciate ongoing conversation with parents and caregivers and hope you will make it a priority this year to attend as many school sponsored events as possible.

We guide our children to become first-rate scholars with strong habits of mind; who extend a kind hand when someone is in need; who habitually reflect on and learn from mistakes; who make it a point to understand, include and respect others and who have the courage to stand up for what is right. In other words, we take seriously the mission to educate "the whole child".

We invite you to contact us to share questions and concerns. We are always happy to talk about how to best guide and promote positive experiences for your child.

### **Meet the Teachers**

**Stephanie Augello- geography teachers**

[saugello@basdschools.org](mailto:saugello@basdschools.org)

**Craig Downey - literacy teacher**

[cdowney@basdschools.org](mailto:cdowney@basdschools.org)

**Julie Getz - English language arts teacher**

[jgetz@basdschools.org](mailto:jgetz@basdschools.org)

**Gayle McLaughlin - learning support teacher**

[gmclaughlin@basdschools.org](mailto:gmclaughlin@basdschools.org)

**\*Laurie Miller - science teacher / team leader**

[lmiller@basdschools.org](mailto:lmiller@basdschools.org)

**Nadine Novatnak - math teacher**

[nnovatnak@basdschools.org](mailto:nnovatnak@basdschools.org)

**Marcie Litak - 7th grade guidance counselor**

[mlitak@basdschools.org](mailto:mlitak@basdschools.org)

\*Laurie Miller is the Team Penn State leader. If you have concerns/questions for the entire team, please email Mrs. Miller and she will disseminate the information at our team meeting.

**Team Penn State - the team is made up of 6 teachers that teach different subjects, but the same students. We meet regularly to address:**

- Interdisciplinary projects
- Transferable skills across content areas
- Student concerns
- Student activities
- Behavior issues in the classroom
- Student growth and progress

**Parent Resources**

- Home Access Center to view your child's grade
- Follow us on Twitter - @NMSPennState
- Follow us on Instagram - pennstatenms
- Follow us on Facebook - [www.facebook.com/NMSTeamPennState](http://www.facebook.com/NMSTeamPennState)
- Follow us on Snapchat - @NMSTeamPSU
- Google Classroom/Schoology

**Team Penn State afternoon detentions**

- Monday - Thursday from 3:05pm - 3:45pm
- Students will be given 24 hour notice of detentions
- Parents will be notified of the detention

**"Homework Hangout"**

- Monday - Thursday from 3:05pm - 3:45pm
- Come to get your homework started and/or receive extra help

**Key Upcoming Dates**

Nitschmann Back to School Night ----- Thursday, September 7th, 2017

1st marking period report card ----- Wednesday, November 1st, 2017

Conferences ----- Monday, November 20th, 2017 (afternoon)

Tuesday, November 21st, 2017 (evening)

Thursday, February 15th, 2018 (evening)