

NORTH COUNTRY ROAD MIDDLE SCHOOL

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October 2024

Our school year has begun on a positive note as we create more opportunities for student engagement while diving into the curriculum and launching our extracurricular activities. It was wonderful to see students return in September, eager to participate both in the classroom and beyond.

All tests for **New York State Assessments** in English and Math for grades 6-8 are computer-based, as they were last year. These assessments have been scheduled for the spring of 2025. Rest assured, we will continue to provide daily instruction that equips our students for these exams. If you'd like to learn more about the process, you can find helpful information on the state exams at www.nysed.gov and www.engageny.org. Alternatively, feel free to reach out to the school for any questions you may have.

Assessment Schedule

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| Grade 6 – 8 Mathematics | Tuesday, April 22 nd & Wednesday, April 23 rd , 2025 |
| Grade 6 – 8 English Language Arts | Tuesday, April 29 th & Wednesday, April 30 th , 2025 |
| Grade 8 Science | Wednesday, May 7 th , 2025 |
| Algebra I NYS Regents | Wednesday, June 18 th , 2025 |
| Earth Science NYS Regents | Friday, June 20 th , 2025 |
| World Language FLACS Checkpoint A Assessment | Monday, June 23 rd , 2025 |

Some of our students in grade 8 will challenge the **New York State Assessment** in Science, while others will take the Earth Science Regents Exam during Final exam week. Our 8th grade students that have been selected to take Algebra I are not responsible for the NYS Grade 8 Math Assessment due to their necessary attention to the Regents exam. All of these exams are important determinants of academic achievement and indicate when academic intervention is necessary.

We will begin our standardized assessment process that includes the **Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA™)** formative assessments with the Fall Session taking place during the week of October 7th. Each assessment takes approximately 45-60 minutes, and the turnaround time to evaluate results is minimal. There is no test preparation that is required at home or at school prior to the test. Students will participate in a winter and spring administration session in English Language Arts and Math as well. NWEA™ has no correlation to or association with any “high stakes” testing. The data will be reviewed by our classroom teachers and building administration only to inform instruction and speak to individual progress in the classroom.

We have discussed expectations for the 2024-2025 school year during the first week of school in classrooms. This discourse included a review of the district's **Code of Conduct**, which speaks to our practice and policies (i.e. Attendance, Eligibility, and Dress Code). We ask that students refer to their student agenda handbook where this information is outlined.

An important element of daily conversations is to continue to educate our students in reference to the **Dignity For All Students Act**, legislation designed to provide support in order to maintain a safe and healthy school climate. Our middle school provides an approach to combat peer mistreatment through education, providing programs and lessons as part of our Character Education program, as well as our daily learning experiences. You can always refer to our district's Code of Conduct, which is available online, or speak to our building administration for more specific information about The Dignity Act or any matter that pertains to health and safety.

In order to ensure that our student body is prepared in the case of an emergency, we have begun a series of **fire evacuation drills**. Students are instructed to follow the instruction of the adult (teacher, administrator, nurse, aide, etc.) in order to leave the building safely. We have completed the first of a series of **lockdown drills**, which have been designed in cooperation with our Suffolk County Police Department Resource Officer.

All of our students participate in the **First Student Bus Safety program**, which includes a series of drills using the different methods of evacuation from the bus, as well as some strategies that will emphasize safe practices. Students are reminded about the significance of safety and appropriate behavior on the school bus. Building administration has emphasized the fact that our adopted slogan, "Not in our school" applies to our daily bus ride as well.

The beginning of the school year at NCRMS brings with it some amazing opportunities to provide learning experiences outside the traditional classrooms. Our grade seven students will participate in a **field trip to Cedar Beach and Sadderly landing** to take samples of the water quality to evaluate the health of our local ecosystem. After collecting the data, classes will work with the information back in the classroom to expand upon their findings, coupled with conversation about what we can do to protect the wetlands and maintain a proactive approach to conservation. The trip will take place on Tuesday, October 1st and Wednesday, October 2nd.

Our preparation and planning is underway for this year's **grade 8 Washington D.C. trip**. We have been working with **Curriculum Travel of America**, an extremely reputable organization that we have worked with for over 15 years to make some pertinent decisions. Our parent information meeting will take place on Wednesday, October 16th, in our cafeteria at 7 p.m. The dates for this year's trip have been reserved for **Wednesday, April 9th – Friday, April 11th**.

Our schedule of **extra-curricular club offerings** is off and running. A listing of these clubs can be found in the student agenda. Students should listen to the morning announcements for meeting dates and times. We provided information via the Ed Connect system in reference to club start dates and times.

Important October Dates:

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| Wednesday, October 2nd: | Progress Reports posted |
| Thursday October 3rd – Friday, October 4th: | Rosh Hashanah SCHOOL CLOSED |
| Monday, October 14th: | Columbus Day SCHOOL CLOSED |
| Tuesday, October 15th- Friday, October 18th: | District Spirit Week |
| Saturday, October 19th: | Homecoming Parade 1pm Homecoming Game 2pm |
| Wednesday, October 16th: | Grade 8 Washington D.C. Parent Information Meeting 7pm NCR Cafe |

Listed below are some of NCRMS accomplishments:

Our **Miller Place Spirit Week** is Tuesday, October 15th- Friday, October 18th. The Student government has selected a series of theme days for students to participate to show their school spirit. We are following themes each day:

Tuesday, October 15th: Decades Day

Wednesday, October 16th: Pajama Wednesday

Thursday, October 17: Country vs. Country Club Day

Friday, October 18: Spirit Day (wear your favorite MP jersey or school color!)

Our **Homecoming Parade** is taking place on Saturday, October 19th, beginning at 1:00 p.m. by the MP Firehouse on the south side of 25A. The Football game vs. Shoreham Wading River begins at 2:00 p.m. It is a great day to get together and celebrate our community!

Congratulations to September's character coupon winners, **Kenzie Rubinetti** (grade 6), **Ashley Rocano** (grade 7), and **Zia Zito** (grade 8). Students were given rewards for their acts of kindness and compassion from local vendors and merchants.

In order to prevent some potential traffic issues in our parking lots, children that are to be dropped-off and picked-up before and after school hours should be using the back parking lot that is accessible by the Laddie A. Decker Sound Beach School Driveway. **The NCRMS "north roadway" is closed to all traffic except buses from 7:00 a.m. to 7:40 a.m. and from 2:15 p.m. until 2:30 p.m.** Your cooperation and interest in the safety of our students is appreciated.

Schools across the nation are taking measures to enhance safety standards in their communities. It is very important that you **remember to bring proper identification with you when signing your child out** of our school for any reason. Please ensure that family members/friends listed on the Census Verification Card are able to provide identification as well.

Our weekly schedule of events can be found on our new webpage under "**NCR Building & Club Information**". This link will provide weekly reminders that support our calendar and club google classrooms, and will provide special announcements about cancellations and/or changes to the schedule. The goal of this link is to help inform students and parents about all of the great things that are planned for the North Country Road Middle School. Please visit the District's homepage (<http://www.millerplace.k12.ny.us/>) to find the link that will bring you to a site dedicated to promoting Miller Place School District happenings. Scroll through the page to see news stories and photos as we celebrate our District's hardworking students and dedicated staff.

From time to time the guidance office receives information on **enrichment programs**. If you are interested in learning more about these programs contact your child's guidance counselor.

Feel free to contact your child's teachers, guidance counselor, or any member of the administration at any time to answer your questions or address your concerns. Remember, no concern is too small. Working together, we can help your child reach his or her maximum potential in order to experience success.

Sincerely,

Christine Mangiamele

Principal