

MSIS-TOGETHER EVERYONE ACHIEVES MORE



Dear Parents/Guardians of MSIS Students:

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the start of the 2019-2020 school year. I look forward to working with the children, teachers and parents this year to meet exciting challenges and fulfill our district's commitment to promote a caring community that strives for academic excellence and prepare our children to become life-long learners.

We would like to welcome new staff to our building:

Mr. Thomas Lipani - Assistant Principal
Mr. Edward Cuff - Library Media Specialist
Ms. Ellen Dove - Library Media Specialist
Ms. Theresa Uglialoro - .5 AIS Math
Ms. Dawn Abi-Zeid - School Nurse

Our building looks beautiful, thanks to the monumental efforts of our secretarial and custodial staff for all of their hard work in insuring a smooth school opening.

Please note that throughout this newsletter you will find important information regarding school rules and routines. There are many opportunities for you to be involved in your child's education. On Monday, September 16, we will hold our annual Open House. At that time, you will learn about your child's program for the school year and have the opportunity to meet his/her teacher. I also encourage you to join our Parent Teacher Association and to become active on one or several of our committees.

Wishing you all a happy, successful and rewarding school year.

Sincerely,

Michelle Tancredi-Zott
Principal

Please keep your email address current as well as your contact information and emergency contact information with the school your child attends. You can print out a Student Data Change Form on the website at: Parent Resources>Forms>Student Data Change Form.

All future Principal Newsletters will be available on our website at www.commackschools.org or by visiting our buildings and clicking on Mandracchia-Sawmill Intermediate School - Principal's Newsletter. **Please sign up for email notification and keep up-to-date with backpack news which is updated daily on our website.**

School hours

8:50a.m.-3:05p.m.

Parent/Student Visitation

Tuesday, September 3

1:00-3:00pm

First Day of School

Wednesday, September 4

2019-2020 School Based Management Team

Our committee meets monthly to set educational goals and to plan innovative activities to meet these goals. We welcome your suggestions. A mailbox is designated SBMT in the Main Office for anyone interested in submitting an idea. The members of the 2019-20 SBMT are:

Elizabeth Protosow—Chairperson, Reading/Math Teacher
Fran Lettieri – Special Education Teacher Rep.
Jennifer Murphy – Grade 3 Teacher Representative
Caren Macholz - Grade 4 Teacher Representative
Laura Keen – Grade 5 Teacher Representative
Tracy Goldman – Chief Building Representative
Jacqueline Rizzuto – Support Staff Representative
John Ehlers - Parent
Jodi Kaplan - Parent
Denise O'Brien - Parent
Thomas Lipani - Assistant Principal
Michelle Tancredi-Zott – Principal

Mark Your Calendar DATES TO REMEMBER

September 3	Parent/Student Visitation 1pm-3pm
September 4	First Day of School
September 10	PTA Meeting - 9:30a.m. & Class Parent Tea - 10:30a.m.
September 16	Open House – 6:30pm – gr. 3; 7:10pm - gr. 5; 7:50pm - gr. 4
September 30	School Closed
October 1	School Closed
October 3 & 4	MSIS Picture Day
October 8	PTA Meeting - 9:30a.m.
October 9	School Closed
October 14	School Closed
October 23	Grade 5 Sports Night - 6:45p.m.
November 1	Student Fall Social- 3:15p.m.-5:30p.m.
November 5	School Closed
November 6	Jump Rope for Heart - gr. 3 - 7:30a.m.
November 7	Jump Rope for Heart - gr. 5 - 7:30a.m.
November 7	PTA Meeting - 9:30a.m.
November 8	Jump Rope for Heart - gr. 4 - 7:30a.m.
November 11	School Closed
November 12-15	MSIS Book Fair
November 13	Grade 4 Sport's Night - 6:45p.m.
November 22	MSIS Picture Retake Day
November 27	Students dismissed 15 minutes earlier
November 28 & 29	School Closed

THE M.S.I.S. MISSION STATEMENT

The Mandracchia-Sawmill Intermediate School community is dedicated to providing a caring, supportive, and respectful environment empowering us to be lifelong learners and contributing members of society. Therefore, our mission statement is:

We believe that through a caring community we help one another achieve our personal best.

We believe that through a supportive environment we encourage each other to meet new challenges with confidence.

We believe that through respectful interaction and appreciating diversity we enhance the quality of our lives.

Around The Mill....

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation is arranged through the Commack Transportation Office. For further information, please refer to the school district calendar or contact the Transportation Office at 912-2020.

Children are required to take assigned buses and get off buses at assigned stops only. Any exception to this routine must be requested in writing, stating the reason for the request, by the parent/guardian and approved in the main office of the Mandracchia-Sawmill School the morning of the day the change is requested.

Transportation for students with casts & splints.....

In case your child has a cast or splint and rides the big buses, please be aware the district follows the bus company's request to place the child on a small van for the duration.

SCHOOL TRAFFIC

The safety of each and every child is our greatest priority. To ensure the safety of all children, no cars are permitted in the bus lane in front of the school during school hours. Children should be dropped off and picked up in the area on New Highway, near the crossing guard. In addition, when bringing your children to early morning activities such as morning sports, chorus, band or orchestra practice or extra help sessions, please remember to observe the following safety rules:

- Cars should enter the circle in single file using only the inner lane of the driveway next to the curb;
- Children should exit the car using the passenger side only;
- Cars should leave the circle in single file;
- Please do not pass another car.

The safety of our children is important to all of us. Thank you for your cooperation.

HOMEWORK

Homework is an integral part of a students' education. Parents should consult with teachers if there are any questions about homework. If your child is absent and is able to do assignments at home, **please notify the Main Office by 12:00p.m.** so that books and assignments may be gathered. This work may be picked up in the Main Office by a parent at the end of the school day or sent home with another student.

EMERGENCY CONTACT/EARLY DISMISSAL

It is imperative that your child's Emergency Contact and Early Dismissal Cards are accurate and up-to-date. Please notify the school, in writing, for any of the following changes: jobs, phone numbers, addresses, or emergency contact people.

ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICINE

Medication: New York State prohibits the taking of any medication by students during school hours unless the school nurse has been furnished with:

1. Written request from parent, AND a Doctor's note stating:
 - Name of Prescription
 - Reason for taking same.
 - Dosage and time to be administered.

2. Medication is properly labeled in a bottle from the pharmacy.

These requirements apply to aspirin, cough drops, cough medicine as well as prescription medication. All medication will be safeguarded in the health office and dispensed by the school nurse according to written instruction only. A medication release may be obtained from the nurse's office.

ABSENCE/LATENESS

When calling in your child's absence, please use the **nurse's number 631-858-3660 or 631-858-3661**. A note explaining the excuse of absence is required on the day your child returns to school, even if the school has been notified by telephone. Children are expected to be in school by 8:50a.m. When a parent knows that a child will be late getting to school, a note explaining the reason for the lateness is required. If your child arrives to school late, he/she must report to the School Nurse for a pass.

WALKER INFORMATION/NOTES

Walkers need to bring a note to the main office to obtain a pass. Permanent walkers for the year will receive a blue walker pass. Students who bring in a daily walker note will receive a gold colored pass and will meet the parent/guardian outside as long as the note states "will be picked up as a walker." Students who bring in a daily walker note and the note says "will be picked up by _____," will receive a green walker pass and you must come in and sign him/her out in the main office.

EARLY DISMISSAL

It is extremely important that students remain in school until the official dismissal time. End-of-the-day routines help to bring closure to the productive school day. In addition, interrupting the classroom routine to call individual students for dismissal is very disruptive to the instructional program and classroom environment. To this end, please schedule doctor/dentist appointments and all other personal commitments after 3:05p.m. Early departure documentation will be recorded for all students who leave prior to 2:50p.m. Walkers are dismissed at 2:55p.m. and bus students at 3:05p.m. When you must pick up your child earlier than 3:05p.m., notes from parents are to be sent to the classroom teacher to help facilitate the early dismissal in an organized fashion.

LUNCH SCHEDULE

The lunch schedule for the 2019-2020 school year is:

Grade 3	11:15a.m. - 12:05p.m.
Grade 5	12:05p.m. - 12:55p.m.
Grade 4	12:55p.m. - 1:45p.m.

Students may bring lunch from home or purchase lunch. A menu will be sent home each month. Following lunch, and if the weather permits, children will go outside for recess. Please have your child dress appropriately based on the weather. Thank you.