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The 2011-2012 School Year Awaits!

We hope this summer edition of our newsletter finds you and your family happy and healthy. In a perfect world, the information contained can be read at your leisure in between sips of lemonade, backyard barbecues and spirited games of Kan-Jam; we recognize though that summer is often not filled with rest and relaxation and that anxiety over the coming school year often dominates our thoughts as the calendar turns to August.

Our desire is that this publication takes the edge off some of those concerns, and that our students come to us confident, happy and ready to tackle another year. We hope the same for the entire staff at Newfane Middle.

There are two main changes that will welcome our students back this year.



Newfane Middle

First, we are now a 5-8 middle school. Students in grades 5-8 will ride the "early bus," arriving at school roughly 7:25, and attending during the regular school day until 2:13.

Second, our four grades will be housed predominantly in the

traditional middle school building, as the former Intermediate School is now being leased by Orleans/Niagara BOCES.

Finally, some dates to be aware of as we head toward another new school year:

Early August: If you have not received team or teacher assignments by August 15th, please contact the school in order to obtain correct supply lists.

August 25: New student orientation (5th & 6th grades and students in 7th & 8th new to us) at 1pm, and an abbreviated session at 6pm for those unable to attend.

September 6: First day of school
See you all soon!

A Big Welcome!

We're thrilled to be part of the first year of a new era at Newfane Middle School by welcoming our incoming 5th graders to our school, as well as their teachers and instructional associates! Half our students (5th & 6th grades) this year are experiencing middle school for the first time,

In addition to all our new students, we want to take a moment to

welcome the following faculty members who join us at the MS:

- Melissa Dinino, 5th grade
- Kristen Andrews, 5th grade
- Diane Rappolt, 5th grade
- Marcy Ferington, 5th grade
- Nancy Cich, 5th grade
- Barb Schiffert, 5th grade

- Emily Conlon, 6th grade
- Kevin Capanyola, Music
- Mark Nice, PE
- Dawn Dutton, Speech
- Jamie Mercer, Rem. Rdg.
- Sue Stoness, Spc. Ed.

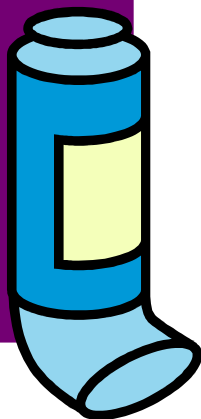
Finally, greetings to our colleagues working in the newly named Newfane Learning Center!



Listen to daily announcements for information on clubs, intramurals and activities!

Open House will be held at the middle school on Thursday, 9/15/2011 from 6pm-8pm. Carpool if possible!

Be sure to have your 6th grader immunized for TDaP!



Clubs, Intramurals and Activities

This year we're excited to announce the addition of two **student clubs**. The **Drama Club** as well as the **Movie-maker and Video Club** both seek to give opportunities for our students to expand their creative and artistic interests and talents.

Our clubs that our students enjoyed last year will continue as well: **Science Club, Lego Club, National Junior Honor Society** and **Student Senate**.

Intramural gym is our after school physical education program. Intramural advisors will be named toward the beginning of the school year, and they will put together a schedule that will be followed as consistently as possible.

Intramurals is a time where our students will receive some instruction in the activity to be played that day. Our gymnasium, outside fields and fitness room will be used during these sessions.

One of the rites of passage of middle school life here in Newfane is the first dance of the year. This year, dances are open to all 7th and 8th grade Newfane Middle students.

Our 5th and 6th graders will be invited to activity nights that could feature several different components, from athletics, to karaoke to games.

These activities will be announced well in advance and will be held in the evening with faculty and parent chaperones.

Open House!

Since this is our first year as a 5th-8th grade middle school, we anticipate our open house to be a more crowded event this year! We encourage you to carpool if possible as parking is limited. This event is a time to get to know our staff and the teachers that will be working with your student(s) during the 11-12 school year.

Open house will be held on **Thursday, September 15** and run from **6pm-8pm**.

The program will begin with a 10 minute introduction in the auditorium, followed by presentations in various rooms throughout the school as the evening progresses. Your student(s) will bring home an open house program on the afternoon of the 14th or 15th

so you can familiarize yourself with the schedule.

Perhaps the most important thing to note schedule-wise for the evening is that it is a 2 hour event. Certainly come for as much of it as you can, but the full two hours will allow you to hear from most if not all of your student(s)' teachers.

Health Office Reminders

Our middle school nurse is Mrs. Lisa Erck, who for years has served the students of our district. The health office phone number is 778-6470, and she is available throughout the regular school day and year. Information regarding medications

both prescription and nonprescription for use during the school day:

- Any medications taken by students must be delivered to the school nurse by student's parent/guardian.
- Prescriptions must be in

container provided by pharmacist, with original label.

- Over the counter meds must be provided in original, unopened container
- All meds must be renewed at beginning of each year.

New Student Orientation



All new students and their parents are invited to join us at the Newfane Middle School auditorium on the afternoon of August 25th at 1pm.

The purpose of the afternoon session is to welcome both our 5th

Join us in the Auditorium at 1pm on August 25th!

and 6th grade students as well as any students that will be new to us in the fall.

At the orientation, we will give an overview of what our new students can expect in the coming year, and an overview of the schedule students will follow.

As this is our first year welcoming both 5th and 6th graders, the format will be a bit different.

All students will be able to walk the school to learn their way from class to class. All students will receive a folder containing information necessary for the start of school, including their schedules. However, only 6th graders will be assigned lockers, as our 5th graders will continue to keep their belongings in their classroom. Sixth graders are welcome to bring in supplies and leave them in the lockers; 5th graders may bring their supplies on the afternoon of August 31st from 12pm - 1pm only.

Be sure to talk to your student(s) about dismissal and where to meet if you plan on picking up after school...

Arrival/Dismissal

Bus transportation will be provided for each student in grades 5-8 that live more than approximately 1.2 miles from the school.

Contact Ridge Road Express directly if you have questions about pick-up/drop-off at 778-8333—give them until the end of August or so to get ready for the year though!

For those that walk or ride their

bikes to school, they may wait in the bus circle lobby beginning at 7:15. We are without supervision until that time and the doors will be locked. Students should remain in the lobby or cafeteria until the first bell rings at 7:30.

Students should only be dropped off in the bus circle, as the back lot gets too congested and presents a safety hazard. We urge parents to

drive carefully and slowly through the bus circle, and always stop for buses with flashing lights.

Dismissal is at 2:13. Bussed students head directly to the bus circle, while walkers/bikers leave at the same time. **There is no sign-out for students being picked up @ 2:13, just prearrange a pick-up spot and students will meet you there after school.**

School Breakfast/Lunch Program

We have a full service cafeteria that offers hot meals (and cold options as well) every day of the school year. Middle school students can enter the cafeteria for breakfast beginning at 7:15, and eat with their classes during their normally scheduled lunches.

Middle school students will **not** be able to “charge” their lunches this

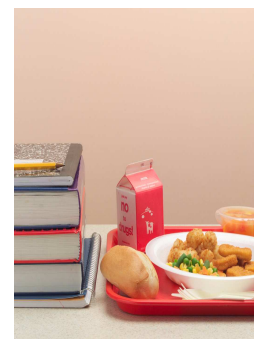
year if they forget their lunch or lunch money. Consider pre-payment for food service; contact Mrs. Annalora (778-6474) or Mrs. Hugaboom (778-6561) about this option! Prices for breakfast & lunch for the 2011-2012 school year are:

- ◆ Breakfast: \$1.25
- ◆ Lunch: \$1.80

Reduced rates will remain at \$.25 for breakfast and lunch.

Please contact our office if your student(s) do(es) not bring home a free/reduced lunch form at the beginning of the school year.

Questions regarding this program can be referred to Mrs. Annalora or Mrs. Hugaboom.



Summer Reading



Summer reading summaries are due on September 16th

We have the opportunity to positively impact our students' character development with every interaction we have with them...

Please come out for a conference!



Our summer reading program is well underway. We are heading into the second decade of this program, and while it has undergone changes through the years, its purpose is the same: to encourage more reading throughout the summer months and to hopefully instill a greater desire to read independently throughout the year.

Anecdotally, it has been amazing to observe the number of our students that

regularly have a book of their own on their desk or in their lockers at almost all times. Through programs like this, and the support of parents and friends, our students are reading more and more.

Take a look at the middle school website for information on our program for this year if you haven't already:

www.newfane.wnyric.org

Summaries of the four books students read over the summer are due to first period

teachers on **Friday, September 16th.**

This year our reward trip for successful completion of the program is a day trip to **Penn-Dixie**, a paleontological and outdoor education center in Hamburg, NY. In addition to learning in a fun atmosphere, students will be able to leave with many fossils that they uncover. More details to come as the year begins!

Character Education

We believe that character education is an extension of the shared values of the Newfane community and the citizens of a democracy. We do not use a formal program but instead stress character education through everyday interactions and "teachable moments." We do take advantage of guest speakers and events to further this

message as well. This year we will continue with the messages from *Rachel's Challenge* to:

- Dream big
- Practice positive gossip
- Treat others the way we'd like to be treated
- Forgive and be Forgiven
- Mock No One

Our first large scale event of the year will take place on **Tuesday, September 13th.** Through the generosity of Mullane Motors in Lockport, we'll welcome nationally known anti-bullying speaker **Ronnie Bachman**, who will share a powerful story of resiliency and strength. He'll be speaking at 7:50am, and parents are welcome.

Parent Teacher Conferences

This year we will have three opportunities for parents to meet with teachers. Be sure to note that the following dates will be half days for all students in grades 5-8 (dismissal at 11am, buses provided):

⇒ **Friday, Nov. 18th**

⇒ **Thurs., Dec. 1st**

⇒ **Mon., Dec. 5th**

Each day will feature afternoon conferences, while 12/1 will have evening slots as well. Parents can sign up for a conference at Open House on

September 15th. Other ways to sign up are through your students' teachers in 5th and 6th grade, or by contacting our main office after September 15th @ 778-6452. Maintaining good communication is key to the success of our students; a strong connection between student and home is increasingly important!

Physical Education—New policies!

There's really nothing like the word "policy" in a title to make a reader want to continue! There are two changes that will impact our students this year with regard to their participation in PE.

First, our 5th and 6th graders will NOT change for phys ed class. One reason for this is we want to maximize the amount of time that students are able to be physically active in accordance with NYS requirements. Second, with the addition of a new grade, locker space is at a premium, which leads

5th/6th grade: No changing!

7th/8th grade: Bring a lock!

in part to changes for our 7th and 8th graders.

A large source of frustration for students, parents and staff is the amount of lost PE clothing! We aim this next change in policy to be preventative in nature:

- 1) Each student is to bring their **OWN** lock and phys ed clothes to PE each day.

- 2) Students should secure only their belongings in a locker with their own lock.
- 3) Students should remove belongings & lock at end of each class and take with them.
- 4) No locker in the locker room will be assigned to an individual student or students.
- 5) The securing of belongings is the responsibility of each student.



If your son/daughter is struggling with homework, be sure to contact his/her teacher quickly!

Agenda/Homework!

Well, it took us a few pages to get to this topic... but it had to come at some point! Each middle school student will receive an agenda at the beginning of the year, free of charge. This is a rarity! Plenty of schools charge for these—we're thankful that our Student Senate provides this valuable tool for our students. It contains our student handbook, a calendar to write down homework and assignment dates, as well as

student passes. Students are expected to have their agendas at all times and to show them to parents/guardians when they get home. It's a great way to keep track of their work. Replacement copies cost \$5 and are available in the guidance office.

You can expect your student to have homework nightly. Please help in completion of this important work by

setting aside both the space and time for the work to be done. If your student is struggling with the homework, please contact his/her teacher quickly to make sure the situation can be addressed. Likewise, if organization seems to be getting in the way of learning, let teachers/counselors know sooner rather than later!

Be sure to check website for homework as well!

School Pictures—Fall and Spring!

This year we will again be using Edge Imaging for our school portraits. Our fall pictures will be on September 29th & 30th. Your child will have their pictures on one of those two days; it just depends on when they have physical education as we pull students from PE for photos. Information regarding picture packages will be sent home with students during the first two

weeks of the school year. Every student, regardless of whether a package is purchased, will sit for a photo as each middle schooler will receive a school id card. The cards will be handed out in homeroom and we expect that students will keep them; we require students to have them for activities such as dances.

We will have spring picture day on February 23rd & 24th. Your student will come home with spring picture info sometime at the beginning of February.



Remember when they looked like this?



Newfane Middle School

2700 Transit Road
Newfane, NY 14108

Phone: 716-778-6452

E-mail: tadams@newfane.wnyric.org
pleibring@newfane.wnyric.org

Newfane Middle School is comprised of grades 5-8, and we anticipate serving approximately 570 students during the 2011-2012 school year. We are thrilled to be working with your students, and look forward to providing them with an outstanding year! We are supported by a Board of Education that values education, a teaching staff that is passionate both about course content and kids, as well as a support staff that works daily to make our building a safe and supportive environment. We'll see you in the halls and the community over the course of this year; call us with any questions, or just stop in!

Together We Have, Can and Will!



School Supplies & Report Card Dates!

Alright, perhaps the topics of this combined article don't really fit, but space is at a premium! Read on!

5th and 6th grade—

Teacher/team assignments will be sent home during the first week in August. Included with this information will be the corresponding school supplies requested for the start of the school year.

7th and 8th grade—

Schedules and teacher assignments will be sent out during the third week in August. We know that there is a great desire to get supply lists sooner, and we truly wish we could accommodate.

Report Card Dates—

All students in grades 5-8 will receive quarterly report cards. Report cards will be sent home approximately 7-10 days after the close of each marking period:

- ⇒ 1st qtr: November 10, 2011
- ⇒ 2nd qtr: January 27, 2012
- ⇒ 3rd qtr: March 30, 2012
- ⇒ 4th qtr: June 21, 2012

Interim Dates—

At roughly the halfway point of each marking period, students should

receive progress reports for each class. If students grades are failing for that class, those reports will be sent home. Reports will be sent home approximately a week after the half-way point of each quarter:

- ⇒ 1st interim: October 7, 2011
- ⇒ 2nd interim: December 16, 2011
- ⇒ 3rd interim: February 24, 2012
- ⇒ 4th interim: May 18, 2012

The biggest thing we can urge is communication! Contact teachers if you have any concerns about your student(s). Talk to administration and counselors in the same manner.

Here's to a great 2011-2012 school year!

