

LION PRIDE



DRYDEN MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

LORA CHAMPLAIN, PRINCIPAL

SARAH POWELL, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

It's That Time of Year Again!

Last year the MS held a Holiday Bazaar where students could purchase items using their Dryden Dollars. This is pretend money that students earn through the year for demonstrating Safety, Responsibility and Respect. Well, we are happy to say we are doing it again this year because it was so successful last year! If you would like to donate gently used items (no clothes) please drop them off in the middle school main office by Tuesday, December 3rd. Please do not send them in with your child for anonymity! We are also looking for wrapping paper, gift tags, gift bags and tissue paper... so if you want to donate any of those items we would be very appreciative!



*Congratulations
to the Middle
School Art
Students of
the Month!*



Art Students of the Month

The 6th grade and 8th grade Art Student of the Month for October was announced on the last school day of the month. The students were selected for this recognition based on their positive attitude, creative thinking, and outstanding effort demonstrated throughout the month! The 6th grade Art Student of the Month was Celia Stuart. The 8th grade Art Student of the Month was Ben Wojcik. Congratulations to you both!

How The Light Gets In

ELA Class Trip to the Johnson Museum



On November 7, a handful of students from Mrs. Griffith's 8th Grade ELA class were able to attend the "How the Light Gets In" exhibition at the Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art at Cornell University. In ELA, we are learning about refugees and the hardships they face while leaving their home country and trying to find another home in a new country. The pieces in this exhibition were made by artists from 29

countries and all explore the topic of migration. Students on the trip were able to evaluate and discuss the artwork on display and have conversations about identity, humanity, and home. During the field trip students contributed insightful comments as they explored these heavy and powerful topics. We discussed what it means to be a foreigner and reflected on how history has repeated itself over the years. I was so proud of their attentiveness and meaningful conversations. This exhibition is on display until December 8th and it is free to attend. There are still spots available for the second trip on November

20th, so please sign up! If any student cannot attend the trip with the class, I highly recommend attending on your own. This exhibition is very moving and powerful.



8th Grade ELA

This year, our 8th Grade ELA classroom has won the Jame Patterson Award from Scholastic! With this award, our classroom was able to purchase 60 books for our classroom library. These books all relate to the core topics we are learning about this year: human rights, refugees, the Vietnam War, World War II, resilience, internment camps, and survival. These books will allow students to get a more in-depth understanding of the topics and historical events. Plus, every Friday, students

participate in Reading Day by reading for fun and exploring books that relate to our units. Now students have a whole mini-library of relevant material to choose from! Students can also purchase these books through the Scholastic Orders that go home each month. The purchases you make through Scholastic gain points for our classroom and help our classroom library grow. I am so happy that this year is already full of books, learning, reading, and fun!



Music News

Winter Concert Season



Renovations and upgrades to our music spaces continue to happen daily, but they will not be completed in time for our winter concert season. Supporting our core value of encouraging creativity, problem solving, and innovation, the athletic department has agreed to share their High School Gymnasium space with the Middle School Music Ensembles on

Wednesday, 12/18/19. Our 6:30pm concert in the HS Gym will feature: Band 6, Band 7/8, Middle School Jazz Band, Chorus 6, & Chorus 7/8. Therefore, we WILL NOT have a concert on the previously published construction delay date of Wednesday, 1/15/20. More details will follow in the weeks leading up to the Wednesday, 12/18/19 concert.

All County Music Festival

November 16, 2019

Each year, The Seneca Tompkins County Music Teachers' Association (STMEA) hosts all county music festivals for select student musicians from throughout the two counties. Selection is based on student's NYSSMA solo ratings from last spring in comparison with candidates from the other participating schools.

Representing Dryden School at this event is an honor that carries with it a considerable time commitment both in terms of school rehearsals and home practice. The Jr. High Honor Band will spend over a dozen hours together preparing for their concert performance. This year's festival will take place at Trumansburg Central

School. The STMEA All County Music Fall Festival Concert will be held on Saturday, November 16, 2019 at 2:00pm. This concert will feature three performing groups: Junior High Orchestra, Junior High Concert Band, and High School Concert Band. This concert is free and

open to the public. All are welcome to attend. The 2019 Dryden Middle School All-County Concert Band participants are as follows:
Autumn Lanzilotta
Alyssa Annonson
Laura Clark
Bruce Debo



School Psychology Awareness Week

Supporting Students to Thrive in School and Beyond

As parents and educators, we share the goal to help our children thrive in school, at home, and in life. This includes ensuring their safety and well-being, helping them build positive relationships, providing opportunities to gain new knowledge and skills, and encouraging them to take on challenges and persevere when things get tough. Working together, we can promote their competence, achievement, and resiliency.

School psychologists are members of the school team where we apply expertise in mental health, learning, and behavior to help children and youth succeed academically, socially, behaviorally, and emotionally. We provide direct support and interventions to students, as well as learning assessments and academic and behavioral interventions.

Helping families and schools implement activities and programs that help children develop resilience, skills, and hopefulness is one of the main goals of **School Psychology Awareness Week**. There are many ways parents can help children take on new challenges; learn new skills; and feel

protected, respected, and valued. As parents, you can:

- ◇ Encourage your child to set goals and to map out a plan for achieving.
- ◇ Help your child internalize a sense that they can achieve by reinforcing the skills already developed and encouraging them to try new challenges.

**Persisting and
overcoming
obstacles is a part
of succeeding.**

- ◇ Emphasize that learning and growing requires trying new things and that success comes from small steps to a long-term goal.
- ◇ Help your child work through setbacks or lack of self-confidence by helping them identify negative thoughts that may suggest concerns about their ability to be successful. As a parent, you can help them see what the small steps are and how persisting and overcoming obstacles is a part of succeeding.

- ◇ Praise attempts as well as success and make sure that you focus on the effort put into the success.
- ◇ Demonstrate through your own behaviors how to try new challenging activities in sports, the arts, or school subjects and use problem solving and decision making skills by thinking aloud.
- ◇ Model the joy of learning by reading about a variety of topics with your children and let them know that you, too, are learning new things.
- ◇ Model perseverance and problem solving when faced with challenges or difficulties.
- ◇ Help your child develop positive relationships with peers and adults and model respectful, caring behaviors with others.

Together we can help your child to **Strive, Grow, and Thrive!** I am your school psychologist and look forward to working with you at Dryden Middle School.

-Lydia Mychack

Student Council

At the end of October the Student Council sponsored a Halloween Dance that served as a club fundraiser and a fun get together for middle school students. There was a costume contest which had many of our students dressed in creative costumes. Winners for the contest were: Best Duo - Maysie Davis and Hunter Barlow as Amy and Sheldon. Best Group - Ella Googan, Lauren Anderson and Morgan Conway dressed as the Fruit Girls. Most Original - Isaac Clendenning dressed as Captain Kirk. Funniest - Hunter Covington dressed as the Chicken Guy. Most Interesting - Nora Anderson as a Jellyfish. Scariest - Jazmine Smith as Zipper Faced Girl. Cutest - Claira Cuykendall as a Sundae.

Dodgeball Tournament

The dodgeball tournament scheduled for November 7 was rescheduled due to unforeseen circumstances. The next tournament will be March 4. That is the next time both gyms will be available after-school.

Thanksgiving Food Drive:

We will be running a food drive from November 12 - 21. We encourage every student to donate at least one non-perishable food item to the drive. We make it a little fun by turning it into a grade level competition. The grade that collects the most food items will win an ice cream sundae party sometime in December.

*Find more information about Dryden Middle School
on the web at: <https://ms.dryden.k12.ny.us/>*





Character Champions

Month of October

The Counseling Office is proud to announce our "Character Champions" for the month of October! Two students from each grade level are chosen by their teachers as champions for each month's character value. These students are rewarded with a certificate and a small prize, as well as recognition in the newsletter.

Queen Champlain declared that October's character value was "**Teamwork!**" October's Character Champions are: 6th grade- *Guiliana Pascarella* and *Wyatt Cross*. 7th grade- *Mia Hisey* and *Greg Hagin*. 8th grade- *Claira Cuykendall* and *Noah "Frank" Slayton*. Great work in demonstrating Teamwork! Keep it up!

Queen Champlain has announced that November's character value is **Integrity**. Look for opportunities to demonstrate Integrity and you could be a November Character Champion!



Looking Ahead to the Winter Sports Season

Attention Athletes ~ The Winter Modified II Season will soon be upon us. This season we will offer the following Modified sports: Wrestling, Girls' Basketball and Boys' Swimming. The deadline to submit paperwork (Health History Form & Signed Code of Conduct on file in the Athletic Office) for this season is **Monday, December 9th.**

The deadline in the school calendar is listed incorrectly. **Students who turn forms into the Nurse after the deadline may not be cleared in time to start on the first day of practice.** Practices start on Monday, January 6th.



The Dryden Middle School mission is to educate and empower each learner to achieve excellence and build a better world.

DMS Photo

Attention Parents:

We were unable to take the DMS Photo this fall, instead the photo will be taken some time this spring. If you have already submitted an order form and payment, Lifetouch will be holding these and fulfilling the orders some-time after the photo is taken. More information to come this spring!



Organizing Options for Students & Families

By Kristin Kashuba, Education Coordinator, 6-12/Admin Intern

Has your student misplaced a homework assignment? Confused assignments for different courses? Unsure what is due when or how to even begin preparing for upcoming assignments or exams? Middle school students have a lot of changes happening within their bodies and minds that make organization a true struggle for this age group. Though it can be frustrating for families, it is truly sometimes out of the control of the child when they cannot get their materials and thoughts organized. Below are some ideas that may help ease stressors between your student and your family.

1. **Color-code.** Crazy busy schedule? Make it easier to remember using a calendar with crazy colors. Designate bright colors for different activities, like aqua for swim practice or gold for a cheerleading competition. Or if your child's class schedule changes daily, as is the norm for some middle schools, give each day of the week a color: Monday is the Orange schedule; Tuesday is the Green schedule (and so on). This color coding also works well for families utilizing online tools such as Google Calendar.

2. **Get everything else organized.** If your child practices good organization skills, chances are it will be easier for her to remember stuff. Working with them to come up with [a plan](#) (some online resources are listed on the next page) to get them with the program.

3. **Make flash cards.** Not only are they a good study aid for almost any subject, but making them gets your child into the habit of writing down information. And just writing something down really helps you remember it!

4. **Pair up/Phone a Friend.** It's okay to get a little help from friends. Have your child find a buddy who has the same classes and exchange phone numbers. (The study-buddy needn't be a close pal — having classes or



teachers in common is most important. Hang out friends aren't always the best learning friends)

5. **Use repetition.** This one is easy: repeat, repeat, repeat. Tell your middle schooler to keep repeating what he needs to know over and over again — either in his head or to the beat of a catchy tune. After all, what's one locker combination when he can recite all the lyrics to dozens of favorite songs? (3-5 times to get the maximum benefit)

6. **Write reminders/Use a Planner.** Sometimes, a good old-fashioned reminder does the trick. Help your middle schooler set his cell phone alarm to buzz (before 7:45am and after 2:19pm, of course) when it's time to do their chores, wake up for school, get where they need to be, etc.; stick a post-it on his notebook telling him to bring home the book he needs for a report; drop a note in their lunch if/when they need to go to the nurse and take medicine. Soon enough, they'll get so tired of being reminded and will begin to work remember on their own (or write their own notes).

Working through your student's middle school years can be a challenge. You are not alone. If you are looking for additional supports or ideas, please check out the links below or reach out to your student's teachers and/or administrators.

(online resources next page...)

Organizing Options Continued...

Resources for middle school families:

<http://singleparentresources.com/> Created by a single parent, this resource provides useful information and support to enrich family life.

<http://www.parentsplace.com/> Parents of all types connect here. The site provides bulletin boards and chats where members can share insights and lend a supportive ear.

<https://www2.ed.gov/Family/families.html> Read a list of learning strategies from the U.S. Department of Education that parents can use to help their children do well in school.

<http://www.ncpie.org/> The NCPiE is dedicated to advocating the involvement of parents and families in their children's education. The group also works to foster relationships between home, school, and community that can enhance the education of young people.

~~~~~  
More Resources

<https://www.scholastic.com/parents/school-success/homework-help/homework-project-tips/7-tips-becoming-less-forgetful.html>

<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/school-help-middle.html>

[https://www.educationworld.com/a\\_admin/admin/admin147.shtml](https://www.educationworld.com/a_admin/admin/admin147.shtml)

<https://www.scholastic.com/parents/school-success/homework-help/school-organization-tips/mission-organization.html>

\* If you have any questions or are looking for more information on any of the resources or strategies shared, please do not hesitate to reach out. Email: [kkashub1@dryden.k12.ny.us](mailto:kkashub1@dryden.k12.ny.us) Phone: 844-8694 Ext. 1442

Dryden Middle School  
118 Freeville Rd  
Dryden NY 13053



Follow us on Social Media!

FB: DrydenMiddleSchoolCommunity

Twitter: @DrydenLionPride

Instagram: @DrydenLionPride