

LION PRIDE



DRYDEN MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

LORA CHAMPLAIN, PRINCIPAL

GREGORY HARRIS, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Principal's Message

Dear DMS Families: Happy Summer! We hope you all have jumped right in to enjoying the fun and relaxation that summer brings! We are getting ready for the next school year, creating schedules and planning exciting events to help ensure our students and staff have a successful 2023/24 school year.

On Thursday, September 7th we will welcome a new 6th grade class to the middle school and we look forward to seeing our current students move up to their new grade levels.

While you are enjoying some fun in the sun- don't forget to do a little reading, maybe try something new and even set some goals for your next school year. Whatever you do, enjoy this time off and we will see you "next year"!

Sincerely,
Ms. Champlain and Mr. Harris

Summer School Dates

School Summer School for grades 6-8 will be held July 17- August 10 (M-Th). There will be no Classes on Fridays: July 21, July 28, Aug.4.



The middle school office is open over the summer!

We are available Monday-Friday
7:00 am -3:00 pm

District Office | 607-844-5361

Schools | 607-844-8694

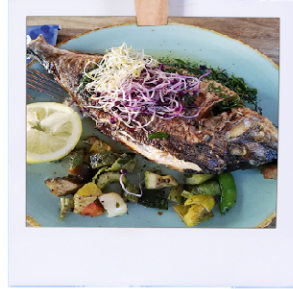
www.dryden.k12.ny.us

8th Grade ELA

The 8th Grade ELA classes wrapped up the year with fun. We started June with the 4th and final visit from Carol Hockett. She has been a guest speaker throughout the year, sharing artwork from the Johnson Museum. This visit she shared artwork centered around our theme of Dream and Illusions. The artwork paired perfectly with our reading of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by William Shakespeare.

During the last 2 months, students have been reading, watching, and acting scenes from *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in class. The students have been doing such a great job acting and interacting with this difficult literature. They have enjoyed ending the year with this festive text.





Tips for the Best Summer Yet

By: Ellen Stelick,
LMSW, Middle School Social Worker

School's out and summer is finally here! While the kids are pumped for two months of sleeping in, staying up late and hanging out in the sun all day, parents often feel overwhelmed by all things summer. Have no fear! With these tips, you will be swimming in summer sunshine in no time at all!

1. Set a routine early on and stick with it.

With so much down time, it is easy to see why our kids can quickly turn into couch potatoes during the summer months. Take charge of the situation from day one and decide what chores and activities you would like your child to do this summer. Teaching kids responsibility from an early age has so many benefits and helps lighten the load for you as well. Even the tiniest humans can help to pick up toys, feed pets, dust, etc. so take advantage of the extra hands and give your child a job or two to do. Set the expectation that your child must get through the "have to" list such as finishing chores or reading for 30 minutes, before they move on to the "want to" list.

2. Make family time a priority.

Spending time together as a family is shown to improve your child's self-esteem and overall well-being, encourages open communication with you and strengthens your relationship with your child. Take family walks, eat meals together, cook new recipes together, have a picnic, have an outdoor movie or game night, etc. Find things that everyone will enjoy or take turns letting each family member pick an activity.

3. Limit tech time.

We have all experienced that, "Oh no!" feeling when we realize we have been scrolling through our phones longer than intended. It's so easy to lose track of time when we are wrapped up in our devices. Unfortunately, our children's brains are primed to become addicted to the fast pace and bright images they see on the screen. Set them up for success by setting a limit on tech time and help them figure out other activities they can do instead.

4. Keep it simple.

There's so much pressure during the summer to keep the kids occupied with as much fun as possible, but while you are making plans for the summer activities ahead, remember to keep it simple. Take a walk in nature, go swimming in the nearest lake, have a bonfire with s'mores, go berry picking, have a water balloon fight. Think back to your childhood and try to recreate your favorite summertime memories.

5. Have fun!

When all is said and done, we want our kids to have good memories of summer days well spent. In the words of Maya Angelou, 'they won't remember what you said, they won't remember what you did, but they will remember how you made them feel.' Let loose, be silly and have fun!

Student Council

The MS Student Council ended the year with an all school dance, Countdown to Summer. Students enjoyed hanging with friends and dancing to the great music.

Ms. Wood took on the daunting task of putting together an 8th grade dance one week later.

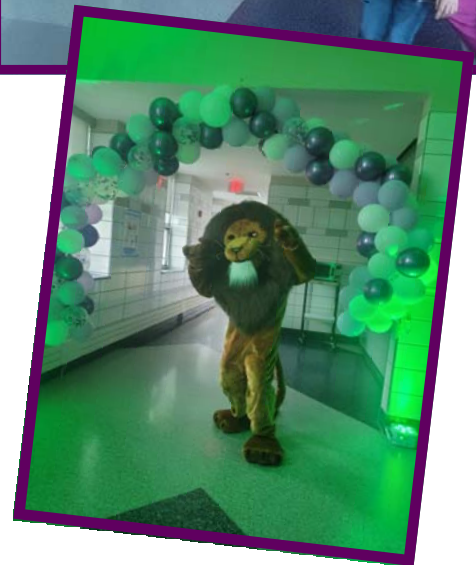
Students were treated to dinner and dancing as they partied they way into high school. There was lots of fun to be had by all.



8th Grade Biology

8th grade Biology students finished out the year making connections, dissecting pigs, journeying through genetics with a student teacher - Mr. Jagoe, and ending the year with evolution and a trip to Treman State Park to release our trio of trout we've been raising all year. Once upon a time there were more trout, but we have learned about limiting factors and favorable traits that lead to natural selection.

We had a great time at Treman Park despite the faces - it was cold and windy that morning. Next up, these students will be taking their first Regents Exam on the Living Environment. They're going to do a great job. Mr. Lee has thoroughly enjoyed this exuberant young group this year and will miss ALL OF THEM.





Middle School Art

8th grade Art students completed a very detailed drawing unit focusing on various drawing and shading techniques. The culmination of this unit was a detailed drawing of their own sneaker. Students considered their viewpoint, proportions, angles, contours, positive/negative spaces, values, textures and blending.

7th grade Art students used a slab roller and created ceramic relief tiles by adding clay on top, and subtracting areas of existing clay to create various levels. Projects were then glazed with a combination of colored underglazes before a final gloss glaze was applied.

6th grade Art also created ceramic projects, but rather than using the slab technique like the 7th graders, the sixth grade students used the coil technique to build bowls.

