

OCTOBER 2018

Greetings to everyone in the MBS community! It's hard to believe that September is already behind us, but I can assure you that despite its brevity, the opening month on the calendar was extremely busy. From the first day when the students arrived, our staff has been making a concerted effort to help the children feel welcome and excited about the new school year. From preschool up to eighth grade, the teachers helped the students get acquainted with their schedules, procedures, and expectations. At the same time, the teachers also started to develop personal connections with their students in order to form meaningful relationships that will hopefully grow and become stronger during the course of the year. Overall, everyone is off to a great start here at MBS!

As always, the top priority for everyone at school is maintaining a safe and secure environment for the staff and students that come to school each day. I am pleased to report that the most recent steps taken to "tighten things up" in this area have been very effective. The new signs on the doors around the school have helped remind visitors about the need to return to the main office at the end of each visit to sign out and exit via the front doors. Additionally, the collateral system is in full swing for visitors who need to go beyond the main office. As in years past, our staff and students will continue to practice a variety of drills during the course of the year to remain as prepared as possible for different types of emergency situations. Thankfully, Chief Walsh and the entire MBPD remain dedicated to providing an additional layer of school safety to MBS by conducting daily walk through visits and also participating in many of our drills. It is important to remember that in order for our school to be a safe and secure setting, everyone must do his/her part!

Academically speaking, MBS is excited to be part of the regional implementation of a new English Language Arts Program called *Journeys* for the K-5 students. The teachers received initial training on the use of the new program last spring and they have been working diligently over the summer to design lessons that will utilize the new resources in a challenging and supportive manner. Speaking of new additions at MBS, I am excited to have the following teachers join our faculty/family this year:

Nicole DePalma - Kindergarten

Stephanie Jones - Art

Amanda Owens - middle school math

Samantha Seward - middle school special education (maternity leave for Jessica Clark)

From what I have seen so far, our new staff members are off to a great start and are fitting in very nicely with their colleagues and students.

Looking ahead, the month of October is sure to be a busy and exciting time at MBS for many reasons. We will have our annual *Week of Respect* facilitated by Mrs. Sullivan, so be on the lookout for details regarding theme days during the week of October 1. There will be home cross country meets on October 2, 10, 16, and 22, so I encourage you to come out and support our runners in grades 5 - 8. Our PTO will hold its first monthly meeting on the morning of Tuesday, October 16, at 8:45 in the MBS library. I encourage everyone to attend that meeting to learn more

about the various events and programs that the PTO has planned for the year, starting with their *Fall Soiree*, that is scheduled for Friday, October 19, at The Channel Club. Of course, the culminating events every October are the middle school dance the night of October 30 and the annual Halloween parade on the 31st at 1:30. Details on both events will follow later in the month.

Finally, I will provide a brief summary update of our construction project each month. As of now, the work on the new all-purpose room is well underway and on schedule! By the time you read this article, the foundation for the room should be in place, which means the contractors will be able to start framing the space to a larger extent and the room will really start to take shape! Hopefully the weather will cooperate during October and into November and December so that as much work as possible can be done before winter arrives. As of now, the target opening for the new room is March 2019.

As always, I encourage everyone to maintain open lines of communication with the teachers during the year. However, please do not hesitate to contact me directly if you have any questions or concerns. My email is ettore@mbschool.org and the main office number is 732-222-6139. I also encourage you to follow me on Twitter (@MBS_Ettore) and Facebook so you can stay in touch with the events and news at our school!

Respectfully,

Michael E. Ettore

Principal/Superintendent