

OCTOBER 2017

Greetings to everyone in the MBS community! It seems like just yesterday that we opened our doors to welcome back all of our PK - 8 students, but here we are nearly a full month into the new school year. As always, the opening days were filled with all kinds of socialization activities as the teachers and students got to know each other and become familiar with their new settings, schedules, and routines. By the start of the first full week, the staff and students plunged into their respective academic programs and got busy with the business of learning. During the first few days, teachers administered some initial assessments to learn more about their students' progress levels and learning needs so they could begin to design and deliver lessons that will help their students meet with success.

At the start of every school year, there is always a level of "newness" associated with the opening days and weeks of September. This year, our district and the entire Shore region is implementing a new science program for students in K - 8. In grades K - 4, students will be using the *Science Inspire* program and in grades 5 - 8, we will be using the *HMH Science Dimensions* program. In both cases, staff and students will be embarking on an exciting journey through the world of discovery with hands-on and cooperative learning experiences coupled with the use of instructional technology to help add another dimension to this subject area. We are in the process of planning a Family Science Night event in October, so stay tuned to your email for more details!

Another new and exciting endeavor that has been introduced at MBS this year is the *NY Jets Tackle Bullying* program. During the summer, Mr. DeSantis had the opportunity to attend an anti-bullying workshop at Metlife Stadium, where he became familiar with this program. In short, the focus of the program is on encouraging students to become "upstanders" for their friends and peers. As we know, in most types of social conflicts or bullying incidents, there are usually other students that witness the behavior and in turn have a choice to make about whether or not to get involved and in what capacity. The main message of the program is to encourage students to intervene on behalf of the victim instead of standing idly by and simply witnessing the situation. As we know, young people, especially adolescents, are heavily influenced by their peers. Our goal is to instill a stronger sense of confidence and mutual respect in our students so they will be more inclined to step in and help prevent unwanted behaviors that can lead to a case of harassment, intimidation and bullying. Each week, MBS staff nominate students that have been observed as a true "upstander" in a social situation. Every Wednesday morning throughout the football season (16 weeks) Mr. DeSantis will announce the MBS Upstander of the Week to the school. That student will receive a t-shirt, bumper sticker, three tickets to a NY Jets home game along with a parking pass! Additionally, the student will have his/her picture taken and posted on the MBS social media accounts along with having the picture proudly displayed in the front hall of the school. We are three weeks into the program and already we have seen more students exhibiting more "upstander" qualities. I strongly encourage all parents to discuss this program with their children and help us to reinforce the need for students to become "upstanders" for their peers.

During the course of the year, it will be critical for families to maintain open lines of communication with the school. For starters, if your contact information changes for any reason at any time, please notify the office staff as soon as possible so they can update our database. Another person to stay in touch with is our school nurse, Mrs. Gillick. In the event that your child

is sick or injured in any way, please notify Mrs. Gillick so she can update her records and make the staff aware of anything that we need to know to help them have a safe and positive experience at school. Finally, please be sure to reach out to your child's teacher(s) if you have questions or concerns throughout the year. The staff knows that one of their professional responsibilities is to keep parents informed during the year. This may be done via emails, Real Time, phone calls, and personal conferences. Just as a reminder, each staff member has a school email address that is their last [name@mbschool.org](mailto:lastname@mbschool.org).

I am very excited about what has been accomplished in just a few short weeks so far, and I look forward to all that lies ahead for the remainder of the 2017-2018 school year! As always, do not hesitate to reach out to me directly if you have any questions or concerns that you believe I can help address or resolve.

Respectfully,

Michael E. Ettore
Principal/Superintendent