
MAPLE AVENUE MIDDLE SCHOOL

**515 Maple Avenue
Saratoga Springs, New York 12866
518-587-4551**

**Stuart F. Byrne
Principal**

**Robert Loggins
Assistant Principal
Columbian Springs**

**Gerald Leger
Assistant Principal
Hathorn Springs**

**Susan Kichton
Assistant Principal
Excelsior Springs**

**Roseann Jackling
Assistant Principal
Red Springs**

October 7, 2008

Dear Parents/Guardians:

I would like to praise our student body for the very smooth and successful start to the school year. Thank you for your help and support in helping your child to successfully adjust to the new year. It is our hope that your child feels they have adjusted well to the school year and their teachers.

Frequent communication with home regarding a student's academic progress is essential to their success. Recognizing the importance of the home/school connection, the district has required the use of Edline/Gradequick (a web-based reporting system) by all teachers. At the secondary level, teachers will be posting grades at a minimum every three weeks.

I encourage you to check the Edline pages of your child's teachers on a regular basis for information regarding assignments, projects, resources and grade updates. If you have not activated an Edline account, we implore you to do so as soon as possible. Information on how to activate and use your Edline account is enclosed. As a result of the new grade posting requirement, five week interim reports will no longer automatically be sent home. Report cards will be distributed as they have been in the past.

If you do not own a computer or are unable to access a computer and require a paper copy of your child's progress, we will be mailing progress reports, if requested, at the sixth week of each quarter. In order to receive a paper copy, please send the cut-off below with the information requested to the Middle School.

We would like to invite you and interested community members to "The Good, the Bad and the Misunderstood: Keeping Our Kids CyberSafe." Please see the enclosed flyer for additional information about this parent workshop.

Monday, **November 10th**, will be our yearly "Emergency Release Day" drill. Students will be dismissed approximately 15 minutes early that day. Tuesday, **November 18th**, will be a staff development day in the afternoon. This will be a half day for students, with dismissal at 10:45 a.m. Picture retakes will occur on Thursday, **November 20th**. Students eligible are those who were absent and missed photos in October, or those who want pictures retaken because of a problem.

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Progress Report Request Form

I would like a quarterly Progress report mailed to my home for the following student(s):

- 1.
- 2.

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Maple Avenue has several groups that will be participating in the Fall Festival in downtown Saratoga Springs on October 25th and 26th. This is part of the district's participation with the Saratoga Springs Downtown Business Association in promoting our character education themes and programs. The emphasis this year will be on character education and wellness.

The PTSO would like to thank all of you who have chosen Maple Avenue Middle School as the recipient school for a donation from Target when using your credit card. We recently received a check from Target in the amount of \$295.60.

Girls Scouts of Northeastern New York are taking sign-ups for girl scouts in grade 6-8. If you like fun, friends and the outdoors, come check out the Girl Scouts! Contact Kelly Pressley at 583-9955 for more information.

I'd like to remind everyone of the Gun Free Schools Notice, included below. It is illegal for any firearm to be brought onto school property by any individual other than a peace officer in the discharge of legal duties.

Sincerely,

Stuart F. Byrne
Principal

SFB/jec
Enclosures

GUN FREE SCHOOLS

It is important for all members of the public to understand that it is illegal for any firearm to be brought onto school property by any individual other than a peace officer in the discharge of legal duties. According to the Gun Free Schools Act, starter pistols, explosives, other weapons able to expel a projectile, even portions of a workable weapon, are all covered under this legislation. This information is extremely important, not only for students who could suffer severe mandatory penalties of one-year removal from school, but also for parents and community members who might face legal prosecution for violating this act.

The full impact of this legislation makes it illegal for someone to drive onto school property with a firearm or similarly defined weapon in their possession or in their vehicle. This means a parent returning from a day of hunting should not have the rifle or shotgun in their vehicle if they come to school to pick up their child or attend an evening meeting. Beyond strict compliance with the law, there is also the concern for the potential of some unintended tragedy whenever firearms are brought in close contact with large numbers of people. Please use particular caution at this time of year when so many citizens may be involved in hunting or target shooting activities.