
MAPLE AVENUE MIDDLE SCHOOL
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March 27, 2009

Dear Parents/Guardians:

This is a key time of the school year. Once the weather improves, it is sometimes difficult for students to stay focused on their schoolwork. It is always a good idea to monitor your child's homework, and certainly revisiting this practice for the remainder of the school year would be very helpful. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your student's progress, please contact your child's teachers or guidance counselor as soon as possible.

On Thursday, April 2, 2009, you and your son/daughter are invited to participate in a Career Awareness Program and Computer Fair for sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students. This program will take place from 7:00 – 8:30 PM in the Maple Avenue Middle School gym. The evening is an interactive and exciting exchange between local business professionals and the middle school students.

The 6th grade is gearing up for Greek and Roman Days on April 9th, and we appreciate all of the help and support you are showing for this activity.

Maple Avenue participates in an exciting activity with Saratoga Performing Arts Center. An introduction to the ballet will be presented to all seventh grade classes from 10:00 – 11:00 AM on April 7th. A member of the Philadelphia Orchestra will provide an overview of classical music to our sixth graders on May 11th, from 8:45 – 9:45 AM. Parents are welcome and encouraged to attend these performances at school. This then opens an invitation to all sixth graders to attend, as a guest of SPAC, a performance of the Philadelphia Orchestra on Wednesday, August 5, 2009. All seventh graders are invited to a performance of the New York City Ballet on Wednesday, July 15, 2009. If a student attends the summer orchestra performance in sixth grade and/or the summer ballet performance in seventh grade, they will then be eligible for a season pass beginning the following year. This pass is good for all the summer SPAC ballet and orchestra performances until they have completed high school. We will be sending more information home on this later in the Spring. I hope your child will take advantage of this wonderful opportunity.

The Attendance Office would like to remind you of the following procedures: When your child is absent, please call the Attendance Office as early as possible, and please be sure to send a note stating the reason for the absence when your child returns to school. If your child needs to be dismissed early during the school day, please send in a note stating the reason and time of dismissal. At the time requested, you need to come into the Attendance Office and sign your child out of school. Students cannot be released without a parent/guardian signature.

I would like to ask for your help in monitoring your child's school attire. Students come to school to learn to use their minds well. The clothes that students wear to school are to be comfortable and appropriate. Student clothing should not distract or interfere with the focus of school, which is learning. As the warm

weather approaches, more students will be wearing shorts and t-shirts to school. Even though we realize that the current styles are abbreviated, we ask that short shorts and skirts not be worn to school. Pants and shorts should ride no lower than the top of the hips and t-shirts will reach the student's waist. Slogans or designs that are drug-related or contain sexual innuendo are distracting and inappropriate. Tops that are off the shoulder or have spaghetti straps will not be allowed. We also ask that students not wear the plastic or rubber flip-flop type sandals to school for safety reasons. Thank you for your help.

Listed below are activities that will be taking place at the school over the next few weeks.

April 2	Career Awareness Program & Computer Fair, 7 PM
April 8	PTSO, 7 PM
April 9	Greek & Roman Days (Grade 6)
April 10	Good Friday
April 13-17	Spring Recess
April 21	Third Quarter Ends
April 22-27	Grade 8 Science Performance Assessment
May 1 & 4	Cinco de Mayo
May 4-8	Saratoga Education Week
May 5	Grade 8 NYS Science Assessment Written Test
May 7	Orchestra 8 & Chamber Orchestra Concert, 7:30 PM
May 11-15	Buy One Get One Free Book Fair
May 13	PTSO, 7 PM
May 14	Evening Book Fair, 6:30 PM
May 14	Chorus 7 & 8 Concert, 7:30 PM
May 18	Chorus 6 & Instrumental Concert, 7:30 PM
May 19	Budget Vote
May 21	Band 6, 7, 8 and Select Band Concert, 7:30 PM
May 25	Memorial Day Recess

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact either me or your child's house principal.

Sincerely,



Stuart F. Byrne
Principal

SFB/jec