Dear John Jay Middle School Families,

It has been an amazing first year as the principal here at JJMS and I wanted to thank all of you for being a part of it. Whether you offered me advice, spent time talking to me in person or on the phone, attended PTO events, or made sure that your child was ready for school every day, thank you for the role you played in making this a great year for me and for the students at JJMS.

On behalf of the faculty and staff at John Jay Middle School, I'd like to wish all of you a wonderful summer break. We hope that your days are filled with adventures, fun, relaxation and quality family time. Whether you will be staying close, enjoying a local camp or traveling the world, we wish you a fun and restful summer.

To our eighth graders, we hope you enjoyed your JJMS experience, and I wish you all the best at the high school and beyond. I know you are ready for it after your time at John Jay Middle School. Take what you have learned from your teachers, classmates and family members, and have a wonderful high school experience.

To our rising 7th and 8th graders, we are excited for what the next school year will bring. Please check the summer reading list on the JJMS website under “School Announcements” where you will find some terrific books to read. We have some great plans for continued upgrades to the school in terms of technology and flexible learning spaces for next year, and we are excited about how you will use them in September.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

In partnership with you,

Jeffrey Swiatowicz
Principal, JJMS
The end of the school year is here!

We have had a busy spring in the garden! The Environmental Club met three times this month. They have been working on collecting old markers for recycling. We then spent time counting the markers and organizing them to send to Crayola. Seeds and shallots were also planted for home and careers and then at the end of the month some of the greens were harvested. Environmental club planted lots of seeds this spring, including kale, snow peas, cilantro, lettuce, and arugula. They all grew well in the cool, wet weather. We had success with nasturtium inside, as well as parsley and dill. Home and careers used all three in their cooking lessons! Margi Corsello is to be applauded for her tireless work to impart a love of gardening to our students.

The Yankee Game was a rousing good time, with a good showing from our community! We look forward to continuing this fun tradition next year.

Staff Appreciation Day was a big hit in May! A special thank you to all of the parents and volunteers who donated time and delicious offerings to make this a memorable day for all of the incredible staff and teachers at our school.

The JJMS PTO is seeking volunteers for next school year to become a part of the Leadership Team. This team meets monthly with the administration and is instrumental in planning and organizing the PTO events throughout the year. If you would like to become more involved at JJMS and are interested in this opportunity please contact Sarah or Kristin at JJMSPTO@Yahoo.com.

Just a reminder that families now have the option to donate to our on-going “Non-event” Fundraiser or purchase directories, bus notes and JJMS Spirit Wear directly from the website. We have a PayPal account so that you can donate from the comfort of your own home or simply send in a check to the Main Office addressed to the JJMS PTO. We are a 501c3 and all of your donations are fully tax-deductible.

On behalf of JJMS PTO we want to take this opportunity to thank the families who have supported the PTO this year through both volunteer and monetary contributions. Enjoy your summer break!

Warmest regards,
Kristin & Sarah
JJMS PTO Co-Presidents
6th Grade
What a great 6th grade year! We have enjoyed watching the 6th graders grow and develop during their first year at the Middle School. Our students seem to have enjoyed their increased level of independence and have transitioned well to the rising demands of JJMS, hopefully learning to better manage their time and self-advocate. Students have also had the opportunity to explore and understand their Character Strengths and how these strengths can help them navigate the world around them. We hope you and your families have a wonderful summer. See you in the fall!

7th Grade
We will miss our 7th graders; they continued to show their developing student skills and interpersonal skills as they navigated 7th grade. This year, we looked at character strengths and identified character strengths in others whether it be in the relationships we seek or those represented in movies such as “Hidden Figures.” If we can begin to spot character strengths in others, it will help us be more aware of our own character strengths and how we can use these strengths in our daily lives. We hope the summer brings rest and relaxation with family and friends and we look forward to welcoming back the rising 8th grade class. What a great class it is!

8th Grade
“Oh no they’re really going to the high school, I don’t want them to go, and I really like these kids.” That is what I found myself thinking while watching the 8th graders enjoying themselves on the 8th grade boat trip. I have enjoyed sharing your kids’ middle school years with them, and with you. This high school class of 2023 is a great group of kids who look after each other and have a drive to make a difference. They will do well in HS and beyond. Thank you for sharing them with me and everyone at JJMS.

Our last lesson together focused on the words Responsibility and Reputation. We discussed why and how extracurricular activities can help make you a more, well-rounded person and how this can be used in the college application process. We also discussed peer pressure with an emphasis on vaping. We then discussed how to be responsible in HS and create the reputation that will lead you to your goals. We ended the lesson with each student writing a paragraph to introduce themselves to their HS counselor. Throughout the lesson we kept coming back to how to make responsible choices and how these choices will create the positive reputation that you want.

In our conversation about peer pressure we discussed the reality that everyone will deal with peer pressure and will have to make the responsible decision to avoid alcohol, drugs and vaping offers. We also discussed vaping and focused on the facts of how vaping is dangerous and will harm you. I felt that this conversation was well received by the kids and was taken seriously.

I look forward to hearing about the successes that this class experiences at the HS and beyond. Have a great summer!
Grade 6 ELA classes used Laura Amy Schlitz's historical fiction book, *Good Masters! Sweet Ladies!* as the basis of instruction for the final weeks of the school year. *Good Masters! Sweet Ladies!* is a collection of monologues that captures what life was like on a manor during the Middle Ages. Students focused on analyzing the author’s use of historical research, poetic structure, and literary devices to create an engaging and complex experience for the reader. Each monologue served as a springboard for identifying and discussing the many adversities that people who lived in medieval times faced in their day to day lives.

Now is a time of assessment. Not only do we assess your knowledge of the content, but all of us, teachers, parents and students, need to assess the larger life skills. This year, students have begun to learn how to better manage their time and prioritize daily activities. Students have begun to learn to organize their lives, everything from daily schedules to their binders. Students have attempted to navigate the social mazes of the middle school. And they learned to open their lockers.

Their faces don't seem the same. Each student has grown and matured at their own pace, with their own challenges and successes. They have come to resemble the picture of who they will be in their adult life. It has been exciting, rewarding and an honor to have participated in this segment of their journey towards adulthood. We wish them luck, perseverance, enthusiasm and joy in the years to come.

And they will have new lockers to open next year.
Math

Our sixth-grade mathematicians became statisticians for the end of the year! Students generated interesting statistical questions, then identified a survey sample. After questioning their peers and teachers, students organized their raw data to analyze the range of data. Measures of center were determined along with measures of variability. Students worked to create visual representations of the values. Dot plots were carefully drawn, the IQR was identified, and using the five-number summary the students made box plots to show the range of data. Meticulous calculations were used to find the MAD for the set of data. Finally, students clustered the data to identify frequencies for their histograms. The visual representations clearly showed our students’ ability to share their information using different formats. We learned all kinds of interesting details about our peers and teachers, things such as: the number of doors in a typical home, the number of hours of sleep a typical 6th grader spends on technology or sleeping, or reading... the average weight of a backpack, binder, and height of a 6th grader. We had a lot of fun using our new math skills in a creative format. Perhaps our 6th graders will design surveys to continue their statistics work over the summer?

We hope our 6th graders and families have all enjoyed the year of learning and head off into 7th grade with a toolbelt filled with mathematical strategies! Have a great summer from the 6th grade math team!

Social Studies

Our social studies classes continued their studies of the ancient world with a stop in Greco-Roman antiquity. Students in sixth grade studied either the civilization of Ancient Greece, Ancient Rome or both if time allowed. Students explored information about the Parthenon, mythology and the Olympics. The next time that you and your child are watching or reading about sports, ask your child about the Olympics. Did you know that during the opening ceremonies of the Olympics, the team from Greece always enters first? This is to honor the fact that the Olympic Games began in Greece.

Students from all the sixth grade teams participated in a Mediterranean food tasting catered by Lefterris Gyro II in Mount Kisco, NY. Students enjoyed a variety of Mediterranean delicacies such as herbed chicken, hummus, Tzatziki, grilled Pita, Pastitsio, Spanakopita and olives. Parent volunteers came in and served the food and everyone enjoyed the experience!

UNIFIED ARTS 6TH GRADE

Students in 6th grade Unified Arts finished a wonderful year of learning. All Unified Arts classes focus on active, hands-on and exploratory learning experiences. We have found over the years that students love the engaging active learning environments of the Unified Arts classes. Please ask your child to share their experiences with you.
ART
In 6th grade Art, our young artists expanded their understanding of color theory. They reviewed the color wheel and learned how complimentary colors affect each other in creating realistic colors. Students then learned a variety of watercolor techniques such as washes, sponge painting, dry-brushing, resist and using salt to add texture.

They created fantastic underwater sea creature paintings after researching different varieties of sea life. The rotation ended with a critique where each student was assigned another person’s painting, and wrote constructive feedback using their art vocabulary.

HOME & CAREERS
Students in 6th grade Home & Careers worked on a hands-on textiles project that provided opportunities for students to exercise independence while learning and practicing creativity, problem solving, management and thinking skills. Students demonstrated basic hand sewing techniques needed for creating or repairing a textile product and used creative ideas and materials to personalize an individual project.

TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION
Reading, Writing, Arithmetic…….and now Coding! The importance of teaching students to write code has been recognized as a valuable educational experience both in terms of teaching problem solving and logical thinking as well as preparing students for further studies in computer science and engineering. Here at John Jay Middle School, all 6th grade students participated in a coding experience using the code.org website. Students learned basic JavaScript coding commands and solved a series of coding challenges.

Microsoft Excel is a valuable software application used for mathematical calculations and analysis in a variety of disciplines. All 6th graders received Excel instruction so they are prepared to utilize Excel throughout their academic careers. As we all become more aware of the importance of “Going Green”, students in Technology Education created Environmental Responsibility outlines with specific steps they can personally take to create a cleaner, greener world. Students focused on ways to conserve water, electricity, gasoline, and heating fuels. Reduce….Reuse….Recycle

Our culminating project was an architectural drawing and woodworking project. Students drew their names or character strengths using one-point perspective. They then used balsa wood to build their beautiful creations.
ELA
In ELA, students finished the year studying short stories of Ray Bradbury, Kurt Vonnegut and other classic dystopian writers, which served as mentor texts. Thereafter, the students engaged in dystopian book groups in order to make sense of the strange worlds and their relationship to historical and contemporary societies. Thank you for your children! It has been my honor and privilege to be their teacher.

Science
In Science 7, students rounded out the year learning about body systems and ecology. Continuing their anatomical studies from April, May was spent learning about the excretory, integumentary and regulatory systems. Students analyzed lots of provided data as well as data they collected in order to find patterns comparing how their bodies work to their peers. The unit culminated with students participating in a dissection where they compared the parts of the human body to a frog. The final unit of the year focused on ecology and the interactions between abiotic and biotic elements of an ecosystem. Students examined how energy and nutrients are cycled through an ecosystem, explored the various characteristics of different climax communities, examined different relationships between organisms and examined how changes can upset an ecosystem. It has been an incredible journey to watch their science skills of analyzing data, drawing conclusions and backing up their ideas with evidence and real scientific reasoning developed since September, and I hope they continue to build upon those skills as they move on to 8th grade. Thank you for a great year all around!

Math
The standard math classes finished the year studying 3 dimensional geometry, including the concepts of surface area and volume of prisms and pyramids. The accelerated classes included spheres and cones and then also reinforced some important algebraic skills, with linear equations, in preparation for their Algebra course next year. A highlight of the month, however, was each classes’ chance to finally test their kite designs by flying them!

Social Studies
In social studies students explored how the Industrial Revolution exacerbated tensions between the North and South, and ultimately led to the Civil War. In the process, students learned about the emergence of factories, urbanization of the North, the growth and entrenchment of slavery in the South, and the geographic expansion of the nation. Students ended the year with a study of the Civil War. As they enter eighth-grade next year, we should feel confident that the students have a good handle on the seventh-grade curriculum and will be well-prepared to continue their study of American history! Have a great summer!

What a great year! We hoped that the kids had as much fun as we had, and we thank them for all of their hard work. Let them relax this summer because they’ve earned it!

Mrs. Balanda, Mr. Egeler, Ms. Esterow, Ms. Guziec, and Mr. Ley
ELA
English 7 ended the year by reading realistic fiction and historical fiction books in book groups. Students worked together to discuss issues in their books that pertain to a larger group of individuals. We explored how these problems impact people in real life. Our busy year of reading and writing will serve students well when they make the transition to 8th grade ELA! Have a great summer and make sure to continue reading!

Science
Science 7 has been busy learning all about the Human Body. They completed labs measuring heart rate, lung capacity, and reaction time. The culminating lab was the frog dissection!! Students did a great job following instructions and comparing the frog structures to those of the human. We ended the year studying ecology. We focused on Food Webs, Ecosystems, and Biomes. As we complete ecology we will spend some time reviewing for the final. All students should use their final exam review booklet to help them prepare for the final exam.

Math
Math 7 is finishing units including Probability and Geometry lessons. Students have used the probability of events occurring to make predictions. They calculated the surface area and volume of several different 3-D solids. Students applied creativity and artistic skills to create drawings, charts and maps to incorporate math into the interdisciplinary team projects. We are using The Big Ideas textbook and online videos as resources for review of important topics. Students should be reviewing every night for final exams. Have a great summer and remember you will use math every day!

Social Studies
In social studies, students have investigated the reasons behind and impact of Manifest Destiny. This was followed by an evaluation of the events that caused the Civil War. Our last topic was the Civil War and its powerful and dramatic impact on the entire nation, which some historians believe to be the second American Revolution. The exclamation point on that unit is the assassination of Abraham Lincoln.
**ELA**
7th grade ELA ended the year with Social Issues Book Clubs. Students read 3 books in 3 different book clubs and worked to analyze, discuss, and write about each text. Over the course of the unit, students explored how reading fiction helps us become better at relationships in our own lives, deepens our understanding of others, and how the groups to which we belong, our personal histories, and our character traits help to shape our reading. Students completed hashtag projects in which they generated a hashtag or hashtag phrase based on one of the novels they read, then explained how it applied to the novel. We finished the unit by considering how books can be mirrors and/or windows. When students can identify with the book they read and can "see themselves" in the novel, it can be considered a mirror: they see themselves reflected in the character, events, etc. When students consider a book to be a window, they discussed how it provided them with the opportunity to view and learn from the experiences of others. Our busy year of reading and writing will serve students well when they make the transition to 8th grade ELA! Have a great summer and make sure to continue reading!

**Science**
In science, the human physiology unit ended with learning about locomotion, regulation, reproduction, and respiration. Our final unit was ecology, wherein we looked at such topics as food webs, the water cycle, and symbiosis. Ask your child about the parasitic fungus that mind-controls insects, turning them into deadly vehicles to further its reproductive aims! Or our own local nest parasite, the brown-headed cowbird, which tricks other birds to raise its young!

**Math**
Both Math 7/7A students were involved in a Project Based Learning this last trimester during our Geometry Unit. The 7A students created a variety of projects. The group projects varied from a Geometry Fair, a "Geo"pardy Game, A Breakout Room, and A Family Feud Face Off to a Scavenger Hunt. The students were totally engaged, and their strengths and abilities truly shined through.

Math 7 students wanted to work together to use our Geometry concepts and skills to make the classroom a better learning environment. They created a Zen zone. A sound proof wall was created to address ambient noise of our paper-thin wall. They calculated the surface area of an old bookcase to determine the amount of paint needed to renovate it. We added greenery and created the molds for 3-D geometric planters. Not all of our efforts were successful, but we learned from our mistakes😊. They have developed a true appreciation for the beauty and love of mathematics, as well as gained critical thinking and problem-solving skills, a strong foundation for their future studies in mathematics!

**Social Studies**
In social studies, students investigated the reasons behind, and impact of Manifest Destiny. This was followed by an evaluation of the events that caused the Civil War. Our last topic was the Civil War and its powerful and dramatic impact on the entire nation, which some historians believe to be the second American Revolution.
In 7th grade Art, the students have just completed a very challenging Printmaking Project.

We started the unit by learning about mandalas and subsequently students designed a mandala of their own using images that are relevant to their lives. They are executing these designs by utilizing a technique called block printing.

Block Printing is one of the oldest types of printmaking. There is evidence that this technique existed as early as the fifth century BC and it has been used around the world, with roots in India, China and Japan. This method of printing is essentially the process of using a carved surface, covered in ink, to transfer an image on to paper or fabric. Block printing can be done with wood, linoleum, rubber, or many other materials, but we use a plastic block for our work. Images that are printed with this technique are typically bold and very colorful!

HOME AND CAREERS

Working with recycled materials and basic supplies, the students have become DESIGNERS AND MAKERS!

Students in Home and Careers are learning and practicing design thinking skills and strategies they can apply inside and outside of the classroom. Why Design Thinking? Evidence has shown Design Thinking prepares students to use their abilities to create a better world through innovation, creativity and problem solving. Throughout the designing and making process students have opportunities to practice valuable skills: they work collaboratively, innovate, create, communicate, assess and evaluate. So far, they have proven themselves to be thoughtful, capable problem solvers!
The first step in any design process is considering the primary users, their needs and their challenges. For this step we are using a selection of archetypical characters from the “Extraordinaires Design Studio” a fanciful tool which combines experimental learning and creative thinking.

Once students identify the needs of their character, they “ideate” (aka: brainstorm), then sketch to develop a solution. Next, using recycled materials and a large dose of creativity, students build a prototype and a display to communicate their ideas.

The user centered format promotes empathy, creativity and critical thinking. The designing, prototyping and improving stages promote resilience and provide hands on practice in problem solving and resourcefulness.

We ended our unit exploring a few of today’s most innovative thinkers and the challenges they are working on. The goal is to give your students the preparation and inspiration to become agents of change, now and in the future.

TECHNOLOGY

The design process is a big part of 7th grade Technology. In the final 20 day technology rotation 7th graders learned sophisticated architectural skills necessary to build their “dream homes.”

Students learned how to create architectural plans using a $\frac{1}{4}^\text{th}$=1 foot scale. They also learned how to use architectural scales to assist them in creating their plans. Students learned the essential skill of home design. Each student was given the opportunity to create a number of “fun rooms” to put in their dream homes.

Students followed the design process to complete this project. An architectural design brief with specifications and directions was given to each team. Students worked in groups, communicating and compromising effectively. At the end of the unit students had the opportunity to present their house project to the entire class and explain the steps they used to create their homes.
8TH GRADE

SOCIAL STUDIES

Social Studies 8 students have learned a lot this year. Besides learning more about the history of our nation, we’ve had the opportunity to discuss current events and learned about how to write a claim for a history paper (for you parents, a claim is what we used to call a thesis statement!) Students have analyzed many historical documents and have learned to use the acronym SOAPS to break down a document for its Source, Occasion, Audience, Purpose, and Summary. These are skills that they will have the opportunity to use in the high school.

The eighth graders will be missed as they move on to the high school this fall. We feel certain that they are ready for the demands of Global Studies in grades 9 and 10 and that they have a firm foundation for 11th grade United States History and Government. In the high school, students will continue to hone their historical thinking skills and will have the opportunity to take AP classes in the social studies department. Ms. Atwell would like to add that it has been a pleasure to teach her current 8th graders and all the students she’s taught for the last 32 years at John Jay. You made my career both fulfilling and fun. It’s been a great ride! Thank you all.

ELA

Grade 8 ELA classes have finished reading and discussing Harper Lee’s classic novel To Kill a Mockingbird, which included a dramatic reading of Tom Robinson’s trial script. Each student self-selected a major theme in the novel and wrote a response analyzing how Lee wove this thematic strand throughout her book. In addition, 8th grade ELA students produced creative projects, which communicated their interpretation of the novel and their analysis of key literary elements, such as characterization, symbolism, setting, and theme. Incoming 9th graders are required to read the memoir Educated by Tara Westover: more information about the assignment will be posted on the JJHS website. Best wishes for a wonderful and rejuvenating summer!

SCIENCE

Mrs. O’Gorman’s Earth Science students have completed their study of astronomy and meteorology. Our final topic this year was our Meteorology unit, where we incorporated concepts from Geology, Astronomy and Meteorology to study Earth’s weather and climate.

Mr. Miller’s Earth Science class is ending the year uncovering the earth’s history, plate tectonics, including the theory of plate tectonics - all 4.6 billion years! Ask your son/daughter what tools are used to reconstruct the super continents of the past.
All Earth Science students reviewed for the Regents Exam by working on 15 minutes of old Regents questions per night either in their school-provided review book, Barron’s Books, or on the Internet – links to practice websites may be found at www.discoverearthscience.com and/or eChalk. Students took the Earth Science Regents Lab Practical (hands-on) on Thursday, June 6, while the Earth Science Regents Written Exam was given on Thursday, June 20th, in the afternoon.

All Physical Science students completed Physics and applied their knowledge of motion, Newton’s Laws, and energy, along with a study of the sun-earth-moon system. We also reviewed Science concepts from 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grade in preparation of the NYS Intermediate Level Science Lab Practical assessment that students took the week prior to or after Memorial Day, and the Written assessment that took place on Monday, June 3rd. Physical Science students took their final exam on Thursday, June 20th.

In Algebra 1, we finished up the year learning how to use statistics to analyze linear, quadratic, and exponential data sets. Although this Common Core Algebra 1 curriculum is fairly challenging, our students worked hard and hopefully leave us with a deep, foundational, and conceptual understanding of Algebra. The NY State Algebra 1 Regents Exam was administered on June 19th.

Our Math 8 students explored rational and irrational numbers. They also applied the Pythagorean Theorem to solve real world problems, and we proved the theorem in various ways in our classrooms. They ended the year reviewing and studying for the final assessment that was administered on June 19th.

WORLD LANGUAGE

6-7-8 French

6th Grade French
In 6th grade French, students learned to describe their friends - physical appearance and age - and they learned to describe their room and everyday objects that they own. In order to do that, we focused on adjectives, the verb AVOIR to say what we have, and the definite and indefinite articles to introduce nouns. Students continued to focus on listening, culture, speaking, reading, and writing activities. 6th grade French students recently enjoyed making and eating crêpes in class!
6-7-8 French (cont.)

7th Grade French
7th grade students compare the French language and culture of France and the French-speaking world with their own community. In the most recent unit, students learned to identify periods of future and past time. Using sequencing vocabulary, they learned to describe future plans, and to narrate what they did and didn’t do in the past. They learned to use AVOIR verbs, irregular verbs and ÊTRE verbs to describe time in the past. 7th grade French students enjoyed baguette and confiture on the last day of class!

8th Grade French
In our exploration of the French language, students learned to describe and discuss various forms of entertainment. Students learned to talk about their favorite movies and to extend, accept, and turn down invitations. In order to do this effectively, students learned to use direct and indirect object pronouns, as well as added to their working vocabulary of different verbs. We continued to focus on authentic culture of France and the French-speaking world, with a particular highlight on the free-time activities of French young people and the places they like to go. As students make comparisons with their own leisure activities, they gain a deeper understanding of both French culture and their own. 8th grade French students recently enjoyed kouign amann, a croissant from the Brittany region of France!

6-7-8 Spanish

Spanish 6, 6a, 7 and 7a
As the year comes to an end, students are putting to use all the vocabulary and verbs they have learned this year. They are participating in listening and speaking activities combining all their knowledge, and are honing their reading and writing skills. Students did a wonderful job and we are excited to see their progress next year.

Spanish 8
It’s hard to believe it, but the school year has actually come to an end. The 8th grade Spanish students studied about going to an open-air market and speaking to the artisans about their handicrafts. If your family happens to go to a Spanish-speaking country, your child will be skilled at conversing with the merchants about their work.
Sra. Kessler could not let her career end without sharing some culture about Spain with her students. They learned about Spain's geography, history, culture, and of course, some of Sra’s personal stories! The 8th grade students are ready to move up to the high school in September. We wish them the best of luck, and we know they will be successful in everything they do.
6-7-8 Latin

Mr. Knittel’s Latin 6/7 students have been busy lately, composing and performing a Latin version of the classic song “Take Me Home, Country Roads.” Mr. Knittel pushed for something with more air guitar, but his students were undeterred. As usual, they were right; the song was fun to translate and to sing. Did the unwitting audiences in neighboring classrooms and offices agree? That's a different question. The last activity for the year will be the culminating activity: a Roman banquet, complete with food, music, games, and togas. And, who knows, maybe some festive summer caroling, too.

The Latin 8 students have been reading and interacting with many lesser-known, but still remarkable Greco-Roman myths over the last few weeks. And before their final exam, they also had a Roman banquet, but this time in the style of the provinces. For some, the garum was delicious, and for others ... less so. De gustibus non disputandum est. Speaking of lesser-known myths, the students will be writing one of their own very soon. Will their beloved teacher make an appearance in the story? Maybe, but Mr. Knittel definitely will!

MUSIC

The music department has finished another beautiful season of spring concerts. We are so proud of the band, orchestra, and chorus students for their hard work on all of their music they performed. Congratulations to the students!

In discovering music, students have completed their final composition projects. 7th and 8th graders are learning how to use composition software such as Garage Band, and 6th graders are finishing up their final music theory unit of the school year.

Mrs. Fraczek's jazz band recently performed at Arts Night and blew the audience away. Mrs. Von Bargen's a cappella group, 14th Harmony, sang beautifully at a board meeting. Eighth grade band and chorus students are also working on selections to perform at their Moving Up ceremony. Best of luck to the graduates and have a great summer!

HEALTH

8th Grade Health

Eighth Graders in Health have explored topics that focused on puberty, self-esteem, communication, Social-Emotional (DBT) Skill for Life introduction, healthy verses unhealthy relationships, cyber-bullying, death by suicide prevention/awareness, sexuality & gender awareness, abstinence, STI and HIV/AIDS prevention. A variety of guest speakers featured a more seminar approach to learning. Guest speakers included high school students for the Prevention Awareness Council (PAC), our School Social Workers about Sexual Harassment, our School Resource Officer Frank Secret, and the youth outreach educators from Hope's Door.
PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Our Physical Education classes finished the year strong with the second round of physical fitness testing. Students completed a 1 mile run, shuttle run, sit-ups test, push-ups test, flexibility test and the pacer test. All of the classes put forth a tremendous effort in these areas. Other units covered this spring were soccer, team handball and frisbee. We hope you all remain active this summer and continue exercising outside of school!

LIBRARY NEWS

It’s difficult to believe that the end of the year is finally here! We have been busy wrapping up numerous projects here in the library. We also got to show off our amazing library space during the 5th grade middle school orientation. The incoming 6th graders are excited for the adventures that await them next year.

Team Zeal has been working with iMovie, creating projects that show what they have learned about the Middle Ages. Most groups focused on specific people who lived during this time period, including knights, minstrels, doctors, and falconers. We have also been working with our green screen technology, with some incredible results!

Team Perspective has been to the library to work on a climate change project. Each team will be creating an iMovie to accompany their presentation, and students will be using QR code technology access the other iMovie projects.

7th graders participated in two separate design exhibitions in the library, where they showed off prototypes that they created for fictional characters. They also created infographics on Piktochart to share their design process and information about their client.
News from the Health Office

Updated physical exam forms with current immunization records attached are always welcome throughout the school year. Keeping your child’s school health record current supports us in taking optimum care of your child throughout his or her middle school years. We can also exempt them from NYS mandated scoliosis screening if their physical exam is current (dated after January 1, 2019).

Incoming 6th Graders

Please be aware of immunization requirements for 6th grade:
- Varicella – 2 doses, Polio – 4 doses*, Tdap Booster**
  * - 3 doses only if 3rd is given after age 4
  ** - When child turns 11 years old.
Please submit proof of immunization as soon as this requirement is fulfilled.

7th Graders

Please be aware of a new immunization requirement for 7th grade:
- Meningococcal vaccine

This is also a year for mandated physical exams. Please send in a copy of your child’s most current physical exam report (dated after Sept. 5, 2018) and updated immunization record as soon as possible. **Physicals are due by October 15, 2019.**

8th Graders

- Students must update their physicals if participating in a modified sport or if applying for working papers.

Sports

- Please refer to the Athletic Department website for instructions on modified (7th & 8th grade) sports participation and sign ups.
- **Physicals for a modified fall sport must be dated after September 1, 2018.**

Medications

- All medication (including over the counter) to be given at school must have a corresponding updated doctor’s order. Medication orders for the 2019-2020 school year **MUST be dated after July 1, 2019.** Forms are available on the district website. Please make sure to check expiration dates on medication to be held in the Health Office. We ask that all medication submitted in September expires no sooner June 2020.
When dropping off or mailing Health Office paperwork, please make sure it is in a sealed envelope clearly marked: Health Office. Mail will be held safely for us over the summer.

The Health Office will close June 26th and will reopen August 26th with limited hours through September 3rd. Please call 763-7508 if you need an appointment to discuss your child's special health needs and/or to drop off medications and updated orders.

PLEASE DO NOT FAX OR E-MAIL OVER THE SUMMER.

Thank you and have a safe and relaxing summer!

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