

DRIVER MIDDLE SCHOOL

Marcellus Central School District

JANET O'MARA
Principal
JEAN SHARLOW
Assistant Principal



2 Reed Parkway
Marcellus, N.Y. 13108
PHONE: 315-673-6200
FAX: 315-673-6202

Dedicated and Motivated to Succeed

November 18, 2016

Dear Parents/Guardians,

At the end of the first ten weeks, this is an excellent time to reflect on how your child is doing so far this year. Please have a conversation with your child and discuss if he/she is feeling good about his/her progress and set some goals and action steps for the second ten weeks. In our experience, one thing that often gets in the way of success is not completing homework. It is important to stay on top of work outside of the classroom as it gives students the practice they need to improve their skills and comprehension. Setting up a time and space for students to complete their homework is a good strategy. Another strategy is to check student agendas at night to see what work is assigned.

Other points to communicate:

- ✓ Now that the colder weather is heading our way, when weather permits, students in grades 4-6 will go outside for recess if they have proper clothing. Students should have boots, coats, hats and gloves.
- ✓ When a student is absent from school, you can request his/her homework for the day by contacting the office by 9:00 in the morning. If you make a call later than 9:00, we cannot guarantee getting information by the end of the day.
- ✓ We have no school 11/23-11/25 for Thanksgiving Recess. There is no school December 26-January 2nd for Holiday Recess.
- ✓ We have been announcing all week that we will clean out our lost and found when we come back from Thanksgiving break. If your child has lost something this year, please remind them to stop in the office so we can visit the lost and found with them.
- ✓ Students in grades 7-8 who are failing two or more courses are considered on academic probation. If the student is participating in any extra-curricular activities/athletics he/she is required to complete an academic probation sheet every Friday which shows he/she is completing homework/classwork, participating appropriately, getting to class on time and seeking help from the teacher. If a student is not meeting these expectations, they are not eligible to participate.
- ✓ Earlier this week we held our first lockdown drill. This drill was announced and discussed with students prior to the drill. Students and staff did an excellent job! We will hold another drill before Christmas break. While this drill is not "announced" we will hold it at the end of 4th grade lunch. We do this so the 4th grade students who are all new to DMS get to practice our

procedures for an environment outside of their classroom. Officer Hayes has reviewed with all students our procedures for lock down while in the cafeteria.

- ✓ 4th grade parents will notice an insert in the report with their child's math progress. As we changed our math program, we also changed the way in which we grade and assess students. Just like you have been receiving classroom assessment scores 1-4, our quarterly progress will be graded the same way. Instead of receiving a letter or number grade for the content, you will receive a 1-4 to indicate level of performance overall in math and on specific standards/skills that have been taught and assessed within the marking period.

We hope you have had a great 10 weeks and are ready to begin a new quarter! Please feel free to contact us in the office if you have any concerns.

Sincerely,

Janet O'Mara

Jean Sharlow