



DUXBURY MIDDLE SCHOOL

August 29, 2019

71 Alden Street, Duxbury, MA 02332 781-934-7640

www.duxbury.k12.ma.us

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IMPORTANT DATES:

September 2
Labor Day
No School

September 13-20
DMS Book Fair

September 19
DMS Open House
6pm

Dear Parent/ Guardian,

I hope that you and your family have enjoyed a happy, restful, and relaxing summer! We had a busy summer at DMS preparing for our students' return. This morning, the energy was positive as our community returned to kick off another great year!

On Monday and Tuesday, our teachers participated in professional development. Part of this professional development included a presentation from Tom Murray, a speaker who often visits school systems to focus on social emotional learning themes with educators across the country. His message was clear, and asked all of us to consider how every moment we have at DMS is an opportunity to contribute positively and make a difference in our community.

Assistant Principal Coyne took that theme to our students, as we began the day with the 8th grade reflecting on our school year as 180 opportunities to learn, grow, and contribute. I am excited to see what this year will bring, and so happy to be welcoming back our wonderful students and their families this year.

Lastly, I want to thank all the families that donated to our WEB day festivities, and our WEB leaders who did an amazing job welcoming our 6th graders and new students. The program was wonderful, and the snacks were very much appreciated!

Announcements:

Schedule this week: Each day this week, students will begin in their iLab/ Homeroom classes for important assemblies, announcements, and team time.

Camp Cody's Outdoor Classroom: Our 8th grade trip to Camp Cody will be taking place from October 15-18, 2019. Please keep an eye out for communication coming soon regarding the trip. Also please note that final payments and paperwork are due September 13th, 2019.

Bus Information: Tickets for riding a bus for a single ride may be purchased in the DMS Main Office for \$1.75 (one-way). Students with a bus pass who are riding a bus that is not their usual route will need a note from a parent/ guardian in order to do so. Students must submit the note before first block to the DMS Main Office in order to have it signed. The student will then need to pick up the signed note from the office and show it to the bus driver for permission to ride that bus. Please email bus@duxbury.k12.ma.us with any questions.

Scoliosis Testing: As a part of our health screenings at DMS, all students in PE classes will be screened for scoliosis between August 30 and September 10, 2019.

Students will be notified prior to the screenings. [For more information on the screenings, please read this announcement.](#)

Traffic: We anticipate that there will be more congestion than normal around the campus during the first few days of school. Please be mindful of pedestrian traffic as well as students who bike to school. By adhering to the pick up and drop off traffic patterns and expectations described below, we will ensure everyone arrives and departs from school safely. [Please see this message from our School Resource Officer regarding safety and traffic around the school.](#)

Co-Curriculars/ DMS Sports: At DMS, we offer a variety of co-curricular activities for students. Information regarding the activities, the associated fees, and the meeting times and locations will be coming next week! Additionally, we have two sports opportunities this fall with DMS Cross Country and DMS Field Hockey. If your child is interested, [please click here for more information on these opportunities!](#)

Entering the Building During School Hours: A reminder to all families that during the school day, the only way for parents/ guardians to enter the building is through the DHS Main Entrance and with a photo ID. [Please review this information on the DMS student dismissal process if you are planning to dismiss your child early from school at any point this year.](#)

Dropping Off Tardy Students: Students arriving after 8:30am should enter through the DHS Main Entrance and walk down to the DMS Main Office and sign-in on the tardy sheet. If the student is late due to a medical appointment please bring in a note from the appointment and the tardy will be medically excused. The office staff will provide the student a hall pass to go to their class.

Parent Drop Off/ Pick Up: For students who are driven to school, all student drop offs should occur at the DMS entrance. [Please review this traffic flow map and these drop off directions to ensure the safety of our students as they arrive to school.](#)

Dropping off Items to Students: We have a Parent Drop Off Table in the front office where you are welcome to leave your student's item (please have their name clearly posted on it). However, in an effort to best serve our students and not interrupt the learning process, please understand that once the item is left at school, it is the student's responsibility to retrieve that item.

Communication: I will be sending regular newsletters such as this one, and tweeting from the account @Duxbury_MS to provide you with up to date and pertinent information throughout the school year. Our assistant principal, Mrs. Coyne, will also be on social media. I encourage you to follow her @MrsCoyneAP.

New Staff at DMS:

Jennalee Coyne- Mrs. Coyne joined us as our new Assistant Principal this summer. She was previously one of two assistant principals at Galvin Middle School in Wakefield, and prior to that was a 7th and 8th grade English teacher for a number of years in Reading, MA.

Ashley Sifflard- Ms. Sifflard is joining us as the guidance counselor for the class of 2026. She earned her B.A. in Psychology from Boston College, and then continued on to earn her M.Ed. in School Counseling from UMASS Boston. Most recently, she served as a long term substitute guidance counselor at Furnace Brook Middle School in Marshfield.

Max Staffa- Mr. Staffa is a new addition to our World Language department. He comes to us with a diverse background of experiences that directly support his ability to teach both Mandarin and French classes. He is a graduate of Colgate University.

Christie Walker- Ms. Walker is joining our English department as an 8th grade teacher. Most recently, she taught at the Condon School in South Boston in middle school English classrooms. She earned her B.A. from Bryn Mawr, and her M.Ed. from UMASS Boston.

Abigail Hammond- Ms. Hammond is joining us as a Social Worker who will be providing support to our Partnership Program, as well as our Life Skills Program. She recently completed her degree in social work, and was an intern at Framingham High School's "Bridge Program". She earned her Masters in Social Work from BC, has a Masters in Special Education from Simmons, and earned her B.A. in Psychology from Holy Cross.

Erin Eggers, Lauren Carmichael, Rebecca Kavanagh, and Ron Villarin- Ms. Eggers, Ms. Carmichael, Ms. Kavanagh, and Mr. Villarin join us this year as instructional assistants supporting a number of our students throughout the building.

Michael Cowett- Mr. Cowett will be with us for another year as a long-term sub in the World Language department. This year, he will divide his time at DMS with a high school Latin section as well.

Community

PTO:

The PTO is gearing up for a busy year! [Click here to go to our website for all our back-to-school news](#), or type www.duxbury.k12.ma.us/dmspto into your browser.

You'll find info on how to:

- *join the PTO*
- *help us show the DMS staff our appreciation at next week's staff meeting*
- *volunteer to be a Team Parent*
- *learn more about the September Book Fair and how you can help*
- *connect on Facebook and Twitter*
- *register your Stop&Shop card for an easy way to raise money for the school*
- *mark your calendar for our monthly meetings*

Shout out to the generous 6th grade parents who donated snacks, water, cash and time to Tuesday's WEB Orientation and pizzas lunch for incoming 6th graders and new students. The 8th grade WEB Leaders, led by the fearless Mr. Corbin, did a phenomenal job getting the new students prepared for an awesome year – and your support is greatly appreciated!

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the information in this newsletter, don't hesitate to reach out to the DMS Main Office at 781-934-7640.

Best,

Sarah McGuire
Principal, Duxbury Middle School