

Milford Central School

Reminders from Mrs. Wenck

Friday, 12/17 and Wednesday, 12/22/21

Dear Parents, Community members, Students and Staff,

I would like to take this opportunity to wish each of you a very Happy Holiday Season! These past few days at school have been filled with merriment, cheer, and a great deal of holiday celebrating. Today, this very last day of school before the break, I have to share that I had never seen so many people in Christmas attire and pajamas!! The Grinch visited our school, an Elf was greeting everyone when they arrived earlier this week, and of course, Santa even came for a visit. It was a fun and enjoyable time for all.

On a more personal note, I would like to extend a sincere ***“Thank You”*** to the many individuals who have been so supportive of the school this year. The welcome both Mr. Gracy and I have experienced has been so very special, and we both are truly appreciative of the kind words and actions from all. Please know that we are both very excited and honored to have this opportunity to work for the Milford School District. Thank you!

On a final note, I wish all who celebrate a very special Christmas. It is my hope for all that you are able to spend quality time with family and friends, and that we are able to fully welcome the New Year with good health, warm memories of 2021, and high expectations for 2022!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Romona N. Wenck, Interim Superintendent

Important Information and Reminders

***1 Congratulations to our Music Department:**

It has been a full two years since any of our students participating in band or chorus were able to perform live for their parents. Last week our middle school students held their first concert, which was followed by the high school groups this week. It was wonderful having parents in the audience and students on stage. In addition to the live performance was the live streaming of the event.

***2 Dropping off students at the building:**

Whenever you are dropping off or picking up students at the building, please DO NOT enter the bus loop unless you are directed to do so by school staff. We do not want any near misses with our children moving in the parking lot. All drivers are to use the central lot only. Be sure to drop off all elementary students at the “Pick up and Drop Students Off Here” Sign. Again, unless you are directly by school staff, please use the center lot only. Do Not enter the bus loop.

***3 Positive COVID Cases:**

While we have been working diligently here in the building to reduce potential exposures, I do need you to know that since the start of the school year we had experienced only a few positive COVID cases each month. These cases have involved both adults and students, and in all situations close contacts were notified. However, in just the first two weeks of December, our number of positive cases increased significantly and we even had to quarantine one of our elementary classes. In addition, we had a few members of one of our athletic teams test positive which required the quarantine of several others. I cannot emphasize enough...**if you or your children are exhibiting any COVID like symptoms, please stay home home.** Our goal is to make it through the entire school year without having to go fully remote. I believe we can do it, but we need everyone's support with this! **Please, if you feel sick, stay home!!!**

***4 School Safety Drills:**

As you are aware, earlier this month we ran our first Lockdown drill. Last week, due to a notification potential threat of harm to schools by the Otsego County Sheriff's Department, we ran a Lockout drill. This past week we ran our 2nd of 4 required Lockdown drills. I am pleased to share that during each of these drills our students and staff reacted quickly and effectively. At all times our students were safe, and everyone handled the drills with the appropriate level of importance.

***5 6th grade placement:**

As I shared last week, it is time to start planning for the 2022-2023 school year. One topic that had been brought to my attention is whether or not 6th grade should stay in the middle school or be moved back to the elementary school. To start the process of discussion on this question, our academic department chairs met with their respective faculty members. In addition, we held a meeting in the PAC with any interested staff members able to attend and share their opinions. After much discussion, the recommendation is that there are other issues with our existing schedule that our staff would like addressed for next year and that these need to be looked at before considering a move for the 6th grade. As a result, next year's schedule will be built with maintaining the 6th grade in the middle school. Specific details will be provided at the January 13th meeting of the Board of Education.

Having shared this, please know that I am still interested in hearing from parents on this issue. If you have thoughts to share on this topic, please either reach out to my office via email, phone or in writing. Another way to share your thoughts on this would be to contact your child's classroom teacher. They, in turn, will be sure to share those thought with me and/or their department chairperson.

Items like this our important decisions for our students and our school. Please do not hesitate to contact us. We would like to hear from you!

6 News from the School Based Health Center: *Reminder

The SBHC continues to have vaccine and is vaccinating students, age 5 and above. Students can be signed up to receive the vaccine on Tuesdays, from 8:00am – 4:00pm, and on Fridays, from 12:00noon to 4:00pm. Call 286-7909 to sign up for the vaccine and/or enroll your child.

No child will be able to sign up for the vaccine without written parental consent. Consent forms are available in the SBHC.

***5 Winter Athletics:**

The winter sports season is underway, and we are excited to be able to provide this opportunity to our students. However, as the positive COVID numbers in our county continue to rise it is becoming more and more important to practice proper mask wearing and appropriate social distancing. The following information has been provided by the Tri-Valley League and is being implemented in our school. Please note:

- Spectators – Spectators will be limited. Each Athletes will be given two guest passes only. Please do not assume that you can use another athletes' passes. Young children will count as part of the allotted 2 guests per athlete.
- Face masks must be worn by players, coaches, referees, and fans. Please make sure face masks cover both your nose and mouth.
- Scrimmages will be closed to spectators.
- Streaming of games - All schools will be streaming the games through our website.
- Concessions – No concessions will be available.
- After the game, please stay seated in the bleachers until your student athlete comes out of the locker room. Please leave the gym immediately.
- Please stay home if you are sick.

***6 Did you know?...**

High school students or adults interested in traveling to The Galapagos Islands in the summer of 2023 can contact Kim Owens (kowens@milfordcentral.org) for more information. This is an EF group tour coordinated by another district, but we have been invited to participate. Students must be entering ninth grade by the time of the trip. An introductory meeting is planned for December 15th, and you can also preview the trip details at <https://www.eftours.com/tour-website/2503151TV>.

***7 Thoughts for our return to school on January 3rd:**

- a. COVID:** Please remember the incubation period for COVID is 10 days. That means if you are exposed it could take up to 10 days for your body to respond with symptoms and during that time you are contagious. I am concerned about the time period from the end of the vacation period to Martin Luther King Day which is January 17th. Please be extra careful during this time. Remember, if you are not feeling well, please stay home!
- b. Chrome Books:** Starting in January, we are asking that Chrome Books assigned to elementary students be kept in school. Most teachers are using the devices in class daily. By keeping them in school there is less wear and tear on the machines, and they should always be charged. So after the break, please bring yours back. Should we have to go remote, we will come up with a distribution plan.