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MIDLAND PRIDE

A Publication of the
Rochelle Park School District



Message from the Superintendent, Dr. Sue DeNobile

The district welcomed the new school year with Midland's new Principal, Dr. Carmichael. Dr. Carmichael quickly went to work, embracing all aspects of this great school. Her focus on promoting a positive climate and culture is already being evidenced; see page 2 to learn about Midland PRIDE!

The first marking period moved quickly! We recognized students who achieved last year's 4th marking period honor roll, honored the wonderful crossing guards, held a full scale evacuation drill, and welcomed a new School Resource Officer (see page 5). Parent-Teacher conferences have been held and the 2nd marking period is underway.

The district will soon see some new faces as we set to hire faculty due to three upcoming retirements. Retiring at the end of the calendar year are Mrs. Gutkowski, Mrs. Carney, and Mrs. Scarpa. They have each been invaluable members of this school community, and will be recognized at the December Board of Education meeting.

Best regards to you and your families for a Happy Thanksgiving. Midland School will usher in the holiday season with the annual Winter Concert! On Wednesday, December 13th at 7:00PM the students will perform for parents/families of 4th-5th grade students, and on Thursday, December 14th at 7:00PM for parents/families of Middle School students. We look forward to seeing you!



CROSSING GUARDS HONORED

The District and RPPD honored the crossing guards at the October Board of Education meeting for their dedicated service and valuable contribution to the safety of our students! Each received a certificate of appreciation and a gift card.



MIDLAND PRIDE

P OSITIVE



R ESPECTFUL



I NSPIRATIONAL



D ETERMINED



E XCELLENT



Be Positive + Be Respectful + Be Inspirational +
Be Determined + Be Excellent = MIDLAND PRIDE!

Principal's Page

Dr. Courtney Carmichael, Principal

In September 2023, 84% of Midland staff surveyed felt discipline was the #1 concern affecting the culture and community of the school. Staff mentioned not feeling empowered to impose consequences and a lack of follow through on discipline matters by the principal's office. In addition, uneven consequences created confusion and inequity for students. For example, a student who fought with another student during recess might not have received a consequence for their actions. Overall, the lack of consistency and structure diminished the school culture and morale.

Multiple systems are in place to help improve Midland culture. They include:

- [Progressive Discipline](#) - infractions and consequences are laid out in a chart that reflects consequences by the the number of offenses.
- Tardy and attendance notification - students should not be late more than 4 times per marking period and will be notified with 10 or more absences. Excessive tardiness and absences are considered truant and may result in further actions.
- Use of the Realtime Discipline Log - parents can use the portal to see student concerns. This improves communication between the school and families.
- Grade level meetings to review consequences and discuss student behavior. Many are conducted during lunch periods but separate meetings are held as needed.
- Intermediate school ice cream socials - homerooms compete in grades 3-6 on who has the best behavior to earn an ice cream party.
- Middle school pep rally - to honor students and their achievements.
- Improved student arrival and line ups.
- Changes to seating arrangements in the cafeteria.
- Schoolwide volume levels - level 0 is silence, level 1 is whisper, level 2 is small group, etc.
- Expansion of the Wellness Program lunch options - Relaxing Recess for grades K-5 and Lunch Study Group for grades 6-8.

Developed with staff input, Midland PRIDE is an effort to focus on the amazing accomplishments of our Lions. PRIDE was developed as a nod to a group of lions and to highlight what Midland is proud of in our community. It had already been used by the RPEA and this newsletter to focus on the good work of the district. Now Midland PRIDE will also be used for school spirit and to build student culture. Everyday students hear and see motivational themes: Be Positive, Be Respectful, Be Inspirational, Be Determined, Be Excellent, Midland PRIDE! In October and November, being positive was the focus, while December and January will focus on being respectful.

Spotlight on Curriculum

Mrs. Cara Hurd
Director of Curriculum

Spring 2023 Assessments

In October, Midland School's results from Spring NJSLA were presented at the BOE meeting. Our teachers and students were, and should continue to be, commended on their hard work and achievements over the course of last school year. Listed below are some of the the highlights from the presentation.

- ★ Detailed comparison of Rochelle Park's proficiency percentages to the states' percentages.
- ★ Detailed comparison of subgroup data for each grade level and content area.
- ★ 91% proficiency on Grade 7 ELA.
- ★ Implementation of DLM Assessments
- ★ Basic Skills and Rtl increased services
- ★ Weekly ELA and Math Challenge Program
- ★ Master Schedule - General Education Co-Teaching
- ★ Extended School Day Program - Winter 2024
- ★ Summer Transition Program 2024
- ★ Continued professional development for teachers and data teams.



Professional Development

Our Midland Staff has participated in numerous workshops since September to strengthen their skills and enhance the daily instruction for our students in their classrooms. Teachers in grades 3-5 have recently started Elevate Science which is a hands-on program that encourages active student learning and lab activities. Teachers will continue to meet with our Literacy Specialist from Gravity Goldberg on implementing Balanced Literacy through Reader's and Writer's Workshop. Teachers will continue to have opportunities to participate in professional development during our upcoming dates in the new year on topics such as: Phonics, Science, Health and Wellness, Assessment, and Response to Intervention (RtI).



Click [here](#) for the BOE Presentation of the Spring 2023 Assessment Results.

Lieutenant Ken Stapleton is the new School Resource Officer for Midland School. He began his RPPD career in 1999 as an emergency dispatcher. He attended John Jay College prior to becoming a police officer, and was hired by the Bloomfield Police Dept. in 2002. In 2003 he returned to his roots and hometown, and was hired as a Rochelle Park Police officer. Officer Ken has served many roles within the patrol division. He was assigned to the Cyber Crimes Task Force in 2007, was promoted to patrol Sergeant in 2015, and to Lieutenant in 2023. He is also an instructor in firearms, use of force, active shooter response, and de-escalation techniques. He currently serves as the Deputy Coordinator with Rochelle Park Emergency Management. He is a past volunteer with both the Rochelle Park Fire Dept. and Ambulance Corps. He is also a graduate of Midland School class of '94. Officer Ken is excited to be back at Midland and proud to once again be a part of the Midland community.

Meet Our SRO



TECHNOLOGY TIPS

Mr. Kevin Cox,
Technology Coordinator



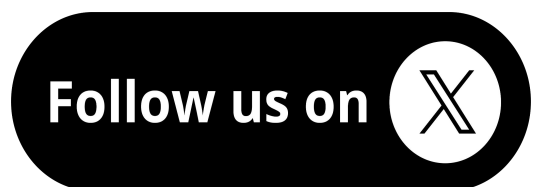
Stay Tuned for exciting changes happening at Midland School. Coming July 2024, the Rochelle Park School District website will be getting a whole new look. During the winter and spring months we will be working on the new website and, when it's complete, we will showcase it at one of our Board of Education meetings.

Don't forget to follow us on YouTube and X (formerly known as Twitter). Many student achievements and updates are posted on X.

Also, if you weren't able to see the Halloween parade feel free to watch it on our YouTube channel.

X: @RPMidland

YouTube: @RochelleParkSchoolDistrict



Check us out on



News from the Business Office

Dr. James Riley
Business Administrator

Building Improvements: In our ongoing efforts to improve our District, here are just a few of the recent updates to our facilities:

- ★ Painting the cornice
- ★ New shrubs near entrance
- ★ New 45” refrigerator in lunchroom
- ★ New elevator jack system
- ★ New hallway flooring (coming soon)
- ★ New security cameras (coming soon)



NOTICE OF GRANT FUNDING:

Our District has been awarded two ROD grants to help offset the cost of a NEW GYM ROOF and HVAC units with eligible funding up to \$311,051.60!

The NJ Department of Agriculture has expanded eligibility for **Free/Reduced price meals**. If you think you may be eligible, please fill out the application [here](#).



The district has a new Regulation for the use of the playground and multi-purpose courts. District [Regulation 7513](#) provides guidelines for the use of the property, with consideration for maintenance, care, and safety. Please review and adhere to the guidelines. Key among them are the “dawn to dusk” use, not using bicycles or motor operated devices, and maintaining reasonable noise levels. Thank you for doing your part to take care of our school and for being a good neighbor.

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