

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

KORI ALICE BECHT
Principal

DAN MOULIS
Assistant Principal

SCHOOL NURSE & SAFETY PHONE
893-0434

Windham Middle School

112A Lowell Road
Windham, NH 03087
(603) 893-2636
Fax: (603) 870-9007

SCHOOL COUNSELORS
893-2636



We encourage you to utilize the District and Middle School Web sites to obtain information. By going to the district site at www.windhamsd.org, you can link to all of the Windham Schools.

Important Dates

- September 7—No School—Labor Day**
- September 8—M2M Training**
- September 9 —M₂M Connection**
- September 10—8th Grade Washington DC Parent Information— 6:30 PM**
- September 14—8th Grade Health Parent Information— 7 PM**
- September 16—Earth Shuttle Informational Meeting — 7:30 PM**
- September 17—Camp Bournedale Informational Meeting —6 PM**
- September 17—Open House —7 PM**
- September 21—Magazine Drive Kick Off**
- September 25 — Student Picture Day**
- September 25 —School Dance 7-9 PM**
- September 30—Moodle Training for Parents—7 PM**
- October 2—Mid-Terms Issued**

POWERSCHOOL PARENT PORTAL

Passwords for PowerSchool will be distributed September 17th during Open House.

6TH GRADE NEWS

Grade 6 students have arrived at Windham Middle School. WELCOME ! Students are excited about their lockers, their new teachers, so much technology for them to access and use, and the many opportunities available to them. Students can participate in sports, clubs, and get involved in many other activities offered during and after school. Before they know it, it will be time to get ready for Camp Bournedale.

Seventh Grade News

In reading, students will be working on the unit, "What Hue Are You?" They will be reading short stories, vignettes, and poems exploring different aspects of identity. After exploring and analyzing the literature together, students will be completing rough draft short writing pieces focused on their own identities. Students will be reading an individual novel during this time. They will be expected to read a minimum of 20 minutes per night, and they will complete weekly reading journals online in their reading teacher's Moodle site. In addition, students will write a book report at the end of September based on their individual novel.

In language arts, students will be reviewing the parts of speech and types of writing. They will also begin work with the Classical Roots Vocabulary. At the end of the month, students will take a narrative piece of writing through the writing process to final draft form.

Social Studies is getting underway nicely. Students are learning about all the many facets of Social Studies, such as Archaeology and Psychology, in addition to Geography and History. We will soon be taking a very brief trip through some of the earliest civilizations to prepare us for a major unit on Ancient Greece. This will be a detailed study of all parts of that culture: Athenian democracy; contributions in art, architecture, theater, and literature; important battles; the early Olympics; and others. We hope to help students discover the impact that the ancient Greeks still have on our lives today.

Science students in 7th grade are reviewing the scientific method before starting a unit on life processes. This unit includes the first project of the year which consists of researching an animal of their choice and learning about the characteristics and needs of living things as they apply to their animal.

Seventh grade math is beginning the year with experimental and theoretical probability and the difference between the two. PreAlgebra will also begin with probability including area maps. Algebra will begin with linear relations, slopes of lines and creating and solving linear equations.



8TH GRADE NEWS

We hope you had a terrific summer! Welcome to a school year filled with new assignments, exciting projects, field trips, and new teachers.

The eighth grade has four new additions to our team. A big welcome goes out to Mr. Kingsley, Ms. Beland, Mr. Leberman, and Mr. Ward.

Mr. Kingsley will be teaching Social Studies and ILS for Team Kearsarge. Ms. Beland is a new Special Education Teacher, Mr. Leberman will be teaching Science, and Mr. Ward will be teaching Social Studies and ILS for Team Washington. Mr. Chaput has changed roles and is now teaching Math and Science for Team Kearsarge. We are thrilled to have them join our team! We are excited and ready for the school year!

Social Studies will begin with a brief review of the American Revolution and Declaration of Independence before moving on to discussing the formation of our government. We will be covering United States history from the formation of the government up until current time.

Science students will start off the year with a review of the metric system and graphing. Then students will begin to investigate the world of Chemistry.

Language Arts will begin the year examining story elements and structure. We will be exploring and creating works of non-fiction, focusing on personal narratives.

PreAlgebra and Algebra students will begin the year creating Hexahedrons, which are made from three strips of paper without glue, tape, or staples! With six sides to decorate, students will be learning, reviewing, and telling a little about themselves in the process. We're looking forward to a great year!

Be sure to note Washington DC and Earth Shuttle Meeting dates, as we prepare for spring field trips. Keep an eye out for informational sheets and postings sent home this month with exact dates and times. Just a reminder, the first school dance is Sept. 25th. We hope to see you all there. Have a wonderful school year!

MEDIA CENTER NEWS

Our goal of seeing every student and encouraging every student to check out a book or other media material will be met on Tuesday, September 8th. We have already met the new 6th graders and have reacquainted ourselves with the 8th grade. We can't wait for 7th grade to visit. It is very exciting to know that every Windham Middle School student will have a book in his or her hand for reading enjoyment and to help them fulfill their reading log requirements for Language Arts. We are looking forward to encouraging all of the young adult readers we have here at WMS.

Sixth graders have started to visit the Media Center for their bi-weekly Skills for Success class with Mrs. Greenleaf. To start off the year we are giving them two assessments to help determine where we should concentrate our instruction. The first assessment consists of sixteen questions having them rate their skills in various tasks such as being a good listener, time management and public speaking. The second assessment, TRAILS (Tool for Real-time Assessment of Information Literacy Skills) is taken online and is a series of about 35 questions that cover five categories: develop topic; identify potential sources; develop, use and revise search strategies; evaluate sources and information; recognize how to use information responsibly, ethically, and legally. The TRAILS assessment is based on sixth grade Information Literacy Skills standards.

M₂M

M₂M is off to a great start. We held our annual summer training in August and had over 70 students trained and they are excited to start the new school year. We have a lot of new topics and fresh ideas for M₂M.

The next M₂M training is September 8th and our connection will be on Wed. Sept 9th-please wear your shirts.

NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION

We were very excited to welcome over 25 new students this year. We held a new student orientation over the summer and received very positive feedback from the parents and students.

GUIDANCE

Guidance offers a variety of programs throughout the school year. Some of the programs that are offered are: Social Skills Training, Grief/Divorce Groups, Peer Assistants, Peer Mediators, Peer Helpers, Resources for tutoring, community involvement etc. We provide classroom presentations on Peer Relationships, Peer Conflict Resolutions, Bullying, Friendships, Drug Prevention and various other middle school appropriate topics.

YEARBOOKS 2009-10

We are happy to announce that the new Yearbooks will be in full color! The cost of the new book will be \$25.00 if ordered before December 31st. Please watch for Yearbook order forms to come home soon.

ADVISORY

We are very pleased to once again have Advisory, which will take place from 10:40-11:00 daily with the entire school participating. Every staff member will have a group of students (approx. 12) that they will be meeting with daily to discuss monthly activities. The goal of Advisory is to make meaningful connections between students and staff. Our Advisory Kick-off was held on Friday, September 4th.

SELECT CHORUS AUDITIONS

If you are interested in singing with the WMS Select Chorus this year, auditions will be held on September 15, 16 & 17 before or after school. Letters of permission and audition requirements can be found outside room 124. Sign ups for a time to audition can be found inside the room. Any further questions? Contact Mrs. Cuneo

PTA

Windham Middle School staff would like to thank the PTA for a delicious breakfast on Tuesday, September 1st. Bagels and cream cheese, breads and pastries, yogurt and granola, fruit, coffee, tea, juice—everything was perfect! What a great way to energize staff for the start of a new year. We encourage all staff and families to join PTA. Look for information to come home or check out the website:

<http://www.windhampta.org/>