

CSMS Parent Newsletter

Redhawk Tales



September 2021

Message from the CSMS Team!

Welcome to the beginning of another year at Central Square Middle School. As an administrative team we are excited to have both staff and students back in the building, and are looking forward to a new year!

Every year middle school requires flexibility and the ability to adjust to changing needs and conditions - this year will certainly not be the exception. Students, staff and parents will really need to work together and communicate moving forward to adjust to the continuously changing situation of both the world around us, and the normal growth and learning that occurs in middle school.

As a building we will be following the district protocols and procedures for Covid safety, working to meet the Social Emotional needs of our students, and help our students overcome the disruptions to the learning process from the past 2 years.

As part of our 2021-2022 school improvement plan we plan to focus on engaging students in school with a focus on fostering relationships between students and staff. There will be many opportunities to create or continue activities to engage all students in areas of interest afterschool. We will also be revamping our CSMS mentor program to reach more students and provide additional support after a tumultuous 18 months. We encourage everyone to join in on the forthcoming opportunities as a way to strengthen student engagement and build an even stronger CSMS school community.

Moving forward we will be focusing on student needs in the 7th and 8th grade based on data during their scheduled "What I Need" (WIN) formerly Academic Recovery (AR). As a school wide program these periods will now be focused on building additional needed skills with a focus on real world application in the Social Studies and Science (civic responsibility, current events, research-based investigations) through project based learning activities. Students who do not have AIS, Band, or Chorus are enrolled in WIN, where they will receive either remediation and practice or enrichment to improve upon other academic areas.

We thank you again for your continued support through these ever-changing times. We look forward to a wonderful year here at Central Square Middle School!

As One We Rise, Together We Soar.

REMINDERS!

- Breakfast will be served daily and students that would like to eat breakfast will be let in the building at 7:20. All other students will be allowed in the building at 7:30. Pick up for students will start promptly at 2:20. Reminder if you are picking up your student you will need to sign them out. For the first day of school September 7th we will begin dismissal slightly earlier. Please be here to pick up your student no later than 2:00 on September 7th!
- The decision has been made to start the 2021-22 school year not having students change for Physical Education. At this time, we want to minimize locker room use and potential exposure of students.
- No bus passes will be allowed this year unless the student has to get off the bus at a different location that is on his normal bus run. All bus seats are reserved ahead of time and there are seating charts for contract tracing purposes.
- All students should have their hats and hoods off when they enter the building. This is a safety protocol to identify who is in the hallway.
- All electronic devices should be off and away during the day unless specifically being used for academics. If you need to get a message to your child please contact the main office.



Meet the Teacher Night



Inviting all 6th, 7th & 8th Graders and their families to Meet the Teacher Night. It will take place in the CSMS bus circle from 4:30-6:30. All students are encouraged to bring their families to meet their teachers and learn more about all CSMS has to offer!

Light refreshments will be provided. *In case of inclement weather, the event will be moved inside.*

If you are unable to attend Meet the Teacher night and still have questions about your child's schedule please contact your student's school counselor or academic area teacher. An email blast will follow with specifics on times, teams, and location.

Principal Mr. Penrod
Principal Mr. King - Last names beginning A-M
Assistant Principal Miss Nugent - Last names beginning N-Z

School Counselors
Grade 6: Mr. LaRose
Grade 7: Mrs. Evans
Grade 8: Mrs. Winchek

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New Staff Members

We are very excited to welcome some new staff members here at CSMS. We look forward to introducing them to the CSMS community! Please join us in welcoming Ms. Wick (Main Office), Mr. Britts (Long term Sub), Ms. Polimino (Social Worker), Ms. Snyder (FACS), Mr. Moore (Music) and Mr. Wexler (7th Grade ELA/Reading).



Ms. Wick joins us after years of working in higher education. She is a member of Central Square Community and has two sons that are both currently attending P.V. Moore High School.

Mr. Britts is originally from Long Island where he has spent most of his life. He loves anything history related and enjoys watching sports. He is looking forward to joining the CSMS Team this year!

Ms. Snyder earned a Bachelor of Science in Vocational-Technical Education and a Masters of Education from S.U.N.Y College at Oswego. She has taught in the private sector as well as academia including U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington, DC, and Plymouth State University. Ms. Snyder is from Northern New York State and is glad to be living in the Central New York area.

Ms. Polimino grew up in Syracuse and pursued an undergraduate degree in psychology at Le Moyne College. She then completed her Master's of Social Work at Syracuse University. She is very excited to be a part of an amazing school district and is looking forward to working with both staff and students at CSMS.

Mr. Wexler will be joining us as a 7th grade English Teacher here at CSMS! After subbing here at CSMS last spring, he is excited to begin the grand journey of education and adventure that we will go on this year.

Mr. Moore is a recent graduate of Crane School of Music in Potsdam, NY. He grew up in Central Square and is a proud graduate of PVM High School. He is very excited to return to his hometown and help give back to the music program.

COVID Update

As we move forward with a full in-person return for all students, just a reminder based on recently released from the NYSDOH: regardless of vaccination status all persons in any school building are required to wear a mask. We will be doing temperature checks for drop off. Please have your child wait in the car until their temperature has been checked. If you arrive after 7:30 students will have their temperature taken at the front door.

Updated CSSD COVID Handbook: [2021-2022 COVID Handbook for Students Revised.pdf](#)

Nurse Updates

Principal Mr. Penrod

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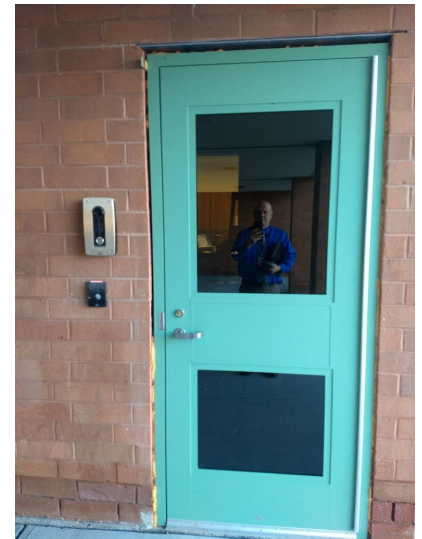
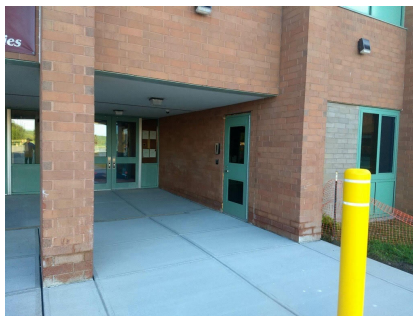
6th Grade Parents: Proof of the Tdap immunization is due to the nurse UNLESS your child has a FALL BIRTHDAY and is currently 10 years old. After 9/22, students will need to be excluded from school until proof of immunizations are submitted to the school per NYS Law. Fall birthday students will have 14 days from their birthday to submit proof before they are excluded.

7th Grade Parents: Proof of the meningitis vaccine must be submitted to the nurse. After 9/22, your child will need to be excluded from school if the nurse does not have proof on file. Any questions or concerns, please contact the Nurse's office.

Nurse: Mrs. Nicole Ransom (315)668-4293 email: nransom@cssdapps.org Fax: (315)676-1051

Construction Update

We are pleased to share that the construction on our main entrance has been completed. The new entrance includes a secure vestibule into our school where parents and visitors will enter and sign in. Other infrastructure updates such as drainage and new concrete in the front have been added as well. In the coming months they will be finishing up some flex space classrooms where the main office was previously located.



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Red Hawk Saver Banking

In its 7th year at the Middle School, the Redhawk saving program helps our students learn about the importance of saving, teaches them how to be money-wise and guides them to be smart money managers.



Here's how it works....

- Every other Thursday, as students arrive for school, an Empower Federal Credit Union representative accepts students' monetary deposits right in our cafeteria. Our Empower representative verifies all deposits and students receive special Redhawk Saver surprises to reward them for their positive saving habits. A receipt of their deposit is then generated and mailed directly to home.

Saving is important! If you would like your son or daughter to be a Redhawk Saver, please contact Lauri Hoover at 315-728- 3474 or lhoover@empowerfcu.com.

As always if you have questions or concerns please feel free to contact the main office at 315-668-4218

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