

# The East Shore Beacon

East Shore Middle School  
Milford Public Schools  
240 Chapel Street  
Milford, CT 06460  
(203) 783-3559

Volume 25, Issue 9  
June 2017



## Principal's Message – June 2017

Dear East Shore Community,

I sit writing the last newsletter of the current year reflecting on the past 10 months. Successes reflect:

Grade 8, made tremendous growth in the area of reading as indicated on NWEA spring 2016 to spring 2017.

Grade 7, math scores have 85% of students meeting or exceeding predicted growth measure on NWEA.

Grade 6 adjusted well to middle school, and grew an average of 10 points in math and 5.5 points in reading.

There were multiple assemblies to address some social concerns: bike safety, tolerance and a student pep rally to celebrate East Shore as a community of togetherness.

Many individuals received awards for academic honors, student of month, SCASA (community service and service to others, CAPSS (community service and leadership service), CABE (Leadership), Citizenship, CAS Scholar leader (distinguished in scholarship/leadership in school and community), Superintendent Awards, Mayors Youth Award and Milford Respect Awards.

Congratulations students! Job well done!

On a different note, I would like to thank each student, parent and teacher for allowing me to serve you as the principal of East Shore Middle School. I will be retiring after 36 years of service as a classroom teacher, assistant principal and principal within the city of Milford. The city I call home and have lived for more than half a century. There is only one thing more rewarding than growing up, being educated, raising a family and being a public servant for a community I call home. That reward is spending time with all of you! Thank you, I will miss you all!

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Catherine Williams, Principal

## Inside this issue:

### Team Pages:

Grade 6, Team 1.....page 2

Grade 6, Team 2.....page 4

Grade 7 .....page 7

Grade 8 .....page 9

Humanities .....page 12

Support Services .....page 15

Literacy .....page 16

Library/Media.....page 16

### Contact Information

#### **School Phone Number:**

(203) 783-3559

#### **Principal's Email:**

[Cwilliams@milforded.org](mailto:Cwilliams@milforded.org)

#### **Assistant Principal's Email:**

[dpiselli@milforded.org](mailto:dpiselli@milforded.org)

#### **School Secretaries:**

Mrs. Sheryl Carpenter

Ms. Molly Dryman

\*All staff email addresses are first initial last name @ milforded.org (i.e. John Smith would be [JSmith@milforded.org](mailto:JSmith@milforded.org))

## Statement of Compliance

In compliance with Title VI, Title IX and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Milford Public School system does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, age, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, or disability in establishing and implementing hiring and employment practices and establishing and providing school activities and educational programs.

The Title VI and Title IX Coordinator and Compliance Officer is Wendy Kopazna. The Section 504 Compliance Officer is Susan Kelleher. They may be contacted by mail at the Milford Public Schools, 70 West River Street, Milford, CT 06460 or by phone at (203) 783-3400. Questions, concerns or comments regarding possible discrimination under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) should be made in person or in writing to the following:

Regarding Facilities: James L. Richetelli, Jr./Chief Operations Officer

Regarding Employment: Wendy Kopazna/Director of Human Resources

Regarding Programs: Susan Kelleher/Director of Pupil Personnel Services



## Team 1

**Congratulations to Ethan G. for representing Team 1 in the Milford Spelling Bee! Great job!!**

### Language Arts/Summer Reading

Wow! Summer is quickly approaching! We have had a great year of learning with this fantastic group of sixth graders! We are currently reading Tuck Everlasting by Natalie Babbitt. In addition, students have started their new reading groups in the genre of fantasy. Some of our titles include The Key to Rondo by Emily Rodda, Michael Vey The prisoner of Cell 25 by Richard Paul Evans, and A Tale of Dark & Grimm by Adam Gidwitz. Summer is such a fantastic time of year that can be filled with activities, such as sports, camps, and of course, family vacations. We strongly encourage you to remind your child to KEEP READING over the summer! Encourage your child to record his or her summer adventures in a notebook or journal. It is a great way to keep writing skills fresh! Remember that all reading counts! This includes newspapers, sports articles, magazines, even cookbooks! We want students to maintain their great strides and gains that were made during the

school year. Enjoy the summer break with your families!

**English Language Arts** -Mrs. Higley [Chigley@milforded.org](mailto:Chigley@milforded.org)



### SOCIAL STUDIES



Team 1 students will be continuing their studies of ancient Greece. Imagine their surprise to learn of all of the things in our society today that have come from the Greeks, democracy being only one example. We have examined the different lifestyles of the Athenians and the Spartans and will read a version of *The Iliad*. The second half of our unit will focus on religion and culture. We will learn about the gods/goddesses and the first Olympics and plays of the world to name a few topics.

Please keep in mind that as the year winds down, often students' efforts do as well. Remind your student to work to their fullest potential until the last day of school! They have shown much progress in their work, especially in their writing abilities. We have enjoyed working with them and watching their growth as learners! Enjoy the summer vacation! Hopefully you will go to some museums to see some of the fascinating things that we learned about this year!

**Social Studies** - Mrs. Balamaci (Team Leader) [Kbalamaci@milforded.org](mailto:Kbalamaci@milforded.org)

## Science

Team 1 Meteorologists have explored the important roles Earth's atmosphere provides all living things. They have learned our atmosphere protects us from most of the meteors and debris from outer space, and harmful ultraviolet radiation from the sun. It also provides the perfect balance of the gases needed for survival.

Students have applied their understanding of our atmosphere and its relationship with air pressure, altitude and temperature. Using their prior knowledge of our sun and planet Earth, they comprehend that wind is created by unequal heating of Earth's surface. Team 1 Meteorologists are looking forward to learning more about weather, and specifically severe weather. Milford has experienced thunderstorms, tornadoes, hurricanes, and blizzards!! Not only is it important to understand how severe weather is

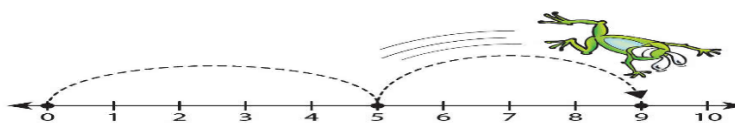


formed, but how we can be safe, as well.

We are very proud of the hard work, progress and development of skills of our students. Keep up the good work, have a great summer, and best wishes in 7th grade!!

**Science** - Mr. DeBassio - [Pdebassio@milforded.org](mailto:Pdebassio@milforded.org)

## Math



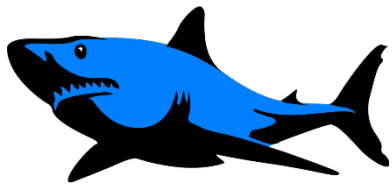
**6<sup>th</sup> Grade Math** - Team 1 students have finished up the Geometry unit and moved onto Statistics. In the Statistics unit, students will be displaying data in dot plots, histograms, and box plots. They will summarize numerical data sets in relation to their context by calculating mean, median interquartile range and mean absolute deviation for a data set.

**6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> Grade Advanced Math** - Students are finishing up their year Operating with Rational Numbers. They will be Adding/Subtracting/Multiplying and Dividing Rational Numbers. Students will develop the concept of integer multiplication and division through discovery and repetition using a number line.

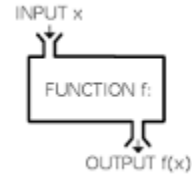
Parents please remind our students to practice their math over the summer. The grocery store is a great place to figure out all sorts of math, menu math, calculating distances and gas mileage for vacations are just a few to mention. They can also fine tune their skills in Khan Academy. It has been a pleasure working with your children and wish you all a great summer!

**Math** - Mrs. Wells - [Mwells@milforded.org](mailto:Mwells@milforded.org)





# Sharks Team 2

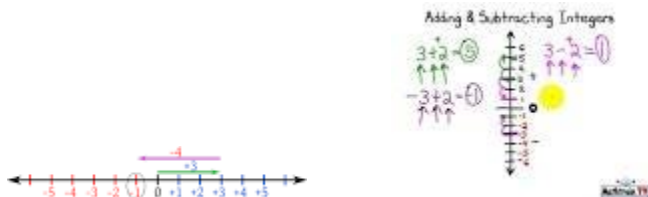


## MATH

**Core Math** -Students will be finishing off the year with our final unit Variables & Patterns

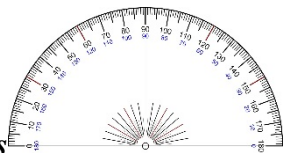
Students will learn to recognize situations in which variables are related in predictable ways. Describe patterns of change in words, data tables, graphs, and equations. Use data tables, graphs, equations, and inequalities to solve problems.

**Advanced Math** – Students are currently in their Accentuate the Negative unit (Operations with positive & negative rational numbers.) In this unit, students will begin with the number line to model adding and subtracting. Thereafter, they will apply properties of operations as strategies to add, subtract, multiply, and divide signed numbers. **Advanced Math** Students will also be learning how to work with Shapes and Designs in their last unit of the year. They will be drawing and measuring the angles in polygons and understand certain rules about polygons and their angles



### **OPERATING WITH POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE RATIONAL NUMBERS:**

Students will learn how to add and subtract rational numbers with the same sign and with different signs. They will learn that subtracting a rational number is the same as adding its additive inverse. Students will also learn how to multiply and divide with positive and negative rational numbers, and explore the meaning of division by 0. Students will engage in real-world applications to interpret their understanding of operations involving positive and negative rational numbers.



**ADVANCED MATH UNIT: Shapes and Designs**

Students will sort and classify polygons by their sides and angles. They will also learn how to find angle measures using protractors and angle rulers, and develop their knowledge of angle relationships in specific figures.

**PRACTICE MATH ALL SUMMER LONG ON MATH WEBSITES SUCH AS: MYMATHUNIVERSE OR KHANACADEMY**

Mathematics – Mrs. Casey (Team Leader) – [DCasey@milforded.org](mailto:DCasey@milforded.org)



## SOCIAL STUDIES

In Mr. Hribko's classes, students will be working on a self-selected course of study in which they chose their three top areas of interest: The Israelites, The Ancient Greeks, Greek Civilization, Ancient India, Early China, Rome: Republic to Empire, and the Roman Civilization. The students will work on a group project to discover geography's influence, the wars and conflicts, citizens' daily life, important leaders, religious beliefs, and the arts and architecture of the chapter chosen. Students will present their findings through a power point presentation in June.

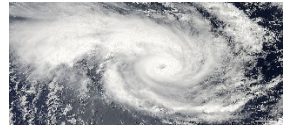
**Parent Tips:** Encourage your child to study their vocabulary words and notes ten minutes each night. Students should be able to define each word and use it correctly in a sentence to show how it relates to the chapter we are studying. Notebooks should be cleaned out and have only materials related to the current chapter in the Social Studies section. As the days get longer and warmer, please be sure to check that homework and projects are being completed on time by checking our team page and PowerSchool for assignments.

Social Studies – Mr. Hribko- [rhibko@milforded.org](mailto:rhibko@milforded.org)

## SCIENCE

Team 2 scientists have covered a lot of ground this year. We started our scientific investigations through the Astronomy Unit and will end our year with a unit on Weather and Climate. This last unit will focus on the complex interactions between sunlight, the ocean, the atmosphere, ice, landforms and living things. We will also discover how ocean and wind currents can affect various world climates.

Students will continue to work on scientifically based explanations which include making a claim, elaborating using evidence and providing appropriate reasoning. Throughout the year, students have practiced and have shown a lot of improvement. So much fun and learning still to come!! *Severe storms and weather phenomena coming soon.....*



Science – Mrs. Cruciani – [JCruciani@milforded.org](mailto:JCruciani@milforded.org)



## LANGUAGE ARTS

The Language Arts classes are continuing their reading “adventure” with a variety of short stories and Book Clubs. Fantasy will be highlighted as we progress towards the end of the year. As the year winds down, student are completing assessments to see how much they have grown this year in writing. Although the end of the year is at hand, reading and writing should not stop over the summer. Be sure to look for the summer reading list that should be on the Milford Board of Ed web site very soon. You can also encourage the enjoyment of reading and writing with these helpful tips:

- \* Read daily! Set aside at least 30 minutes each day to read for pleasure before turning on electronic games or television.
- \* Suggest your child read different types of fiction, such as plays and poetry. Broaden their range of novels to include thrillers, fantasy, mysteries, humor, and science fiction.
- \* Encourage your child to read for information. Reading editorials, newspaper articles, autobiographies, reviews, and manuals will give your child practice with nonfiction.
- \* Encourage seeking different points of view and multiple sources of information to support writing.

English Language Arts –Mr. Cannizzaro – [DCannizzaro@milforded.org](mailto:DCannizzaro@milforded.org)

## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

### LANGUAGE ARTS

In our Language Arts classrooms, students will be working on a unit exploring fairy tales and folktales. Students will be analyzing how fairy tales have changed over time and incorporated into popular culture. Our class will read the original Grimms' brothers versions of the tales and compare them to recent interpretations. As we approach the end of the year, be sure to check PowerSchool to make sure you are up to date with your assignments. Enjoy your summer and remember to complete your summer reading!

**English Language Arts** – Ms. Richiski – [arichiski@milforded.org](mailto:arichiski@milforded.org)  
Ms. Johnston – [ljohnston@milforded.org](mailto:ljohnston@milforded.org)

### SOCIAL STUDIES

We will finish this year discussing North and South America before the arrival of the Europeans. This leaves the 7th graders poised to start the 8th grade curriculum, U.S. History. To keep Social Studies skills fresh this summer, we encourage you to travel, respect the environment, and interact/learn from others. This is an important time in our country so be sure to keep up with current events. We wish you all a very happy and healthy summer! Good luck in 8<sup>th</sup> grade!

**Social Studies** – Mrs. Carrano – [scarrano@milforded.org](mailto:scarrano@milforded.org)  
Mrs. Rossi – [mrossi@milforded.org](mailto:mrossi@milforded.org)

### SPANISH

Mi casa es su casa. As the year comes to an end in Spanish class, we are finishing our unit on the family and two extremely important verbs (tener and estar). Students are now able to describe different members of the family, characteristics, their ages, as well as basic expressions of feelings and emotions. Looking ahead to the month of June, we will discuss the components of a house or apartment. It has been very rewarding to see how much the students have progressed throughout this year, and they should be proud of their hard work.

**Spanish** – Mrs. Elgart – [lelgart@milforded.org](mailto:lelgart@milforded.org)  
Ms. Hannigan – [hannigan@milforded.org](mailto:hannigan@milforded.org)

**SCIENCE**

7th grade students will complete our last unit on Earth Science. We will work to understand constructive and destructive forces that help shape Earth's surface overtime, including weathering and erosion, plate tectonics, earthquakes, volcanoes and glaciation. Using this knowledge, we will predict what Earth may look like in another 100 million years!

Science – Mrs. Theriault – [dtheriault@milforded.org](mailto:dtheriault@milforded.org)  
Mr. Thomas – [mthomas@milforded.org](mailto:mthomas@milforded.org)

**MATH**

We are winding down our final math units in both 7th/8<sup>th</sup> advanced and 7th grade math. More information will be coming about summer math. Thanks so much for all of your support this year. Have a great summer and we are looking forward to seeing your children again as they enter next year as 8th graders.

Mathematics – Mrs. Mahon (Team Leader) – [kmahon@milforded.org](mailto:kmahon@milforded.org)  
Mrs. Astrosky (Team Leader) – [kastrosky@milforded.org](mailto:kastrosky@milforded.org)



**Ways to help your 8<sup>th</sup> grader be successful:**

**Tip # 9**

**Get a head start!** Summer will be here soon enough and it is important for students to prepare for their transition to the high school. Check out the Foran website (<http://www.milforded.org/page.cfm?p=3233>) for information about summer reading requirements and other helpful announcements. Many of our students are avid readers and you can encourage your child to complete their summer reading as soon as possible. Also, any extra practice students can complete over the summer will be extremely beneficial to their academic progress. Your brain is a muscle and it is essential that you “exercise” your brain to keep it strong!

**MATH**

*8<sup>th</sup> Grade Math* – **Unit 7: Volume**

Within this unit, students will solve real-world and mathematical problems involving volume of cylinders, cones, and spheres. Students will discover the formulas for finding the volume of cones and spheres. Students will also learn the relationship to the volume of a cylinder. Have a Great Summer!!!

**Essential Question:** How can the volume of 3-D objects be used to solve real world problems?

**Vocabulary:** Area, Volume, Base, Diameter, Radius, Perimeter, Circumference, Height, Cover, Fill, Pi (3.14), Cylinder, Cone, Sphere

*Algebra I* - We've reached the end of the school year! It's been a push, but the students are handling the push and the stress of the end of the year well. Our Algebra final has been scheduled for Monday-Wednesday, June 5th-7th. The final will be broken into 3 sections, given in math class for those three days. We may still have some material to cover once the final is over, so expect the work to continue until the last week of school. And as always, we appreciate you continuing to reinforce the work that we are presenting. It has been a pleasure working with your kids this year. We wish them well as they journey on to high school!

**Mathematics** – Mr. Lombardi – [MLombardi@milforded.org](mailto:MLombardi@milforded.org)  
Mrs. Astrosky (Team Leader) - [KAstrosky@milforded.org](mailto:KAstrosky@milforded.org)

### SOCIAL STUDIES

As we reach the end of the school year, our final topic of study is the U.S. Civil War. The students are currently reading primary source documents that date back to 1860 to determine why exactly the southern states decided to secede from the United States. Our goal is for the students to understand that the Civil War was not merely caused by disagreement over slavery, but a multitude of factors and events were to blame for the war that claimed more American lives than all other wars combined. We encourage you to ask your children about the causes of secession. Once we are through the causes of secession and the War, we will spend the remainder of the year discussing the Civil War itself. We will look at specific battles and strategies to better understand how the Union was victorious. It has been a pleasure working with your children this year and we wish them all the best as they move into this next exciting phase of their lives.

Social Studies – Mr. Storey – [CStorey@milforded.org](mailto:CStorey@milforded.org)  
Mrs. Rossi – [MRossi@milforded.org](mailto:MRossi@milforded.org)

### SCIENCE

As we complete the school year, students will continue working on their solar cookers. Students will learn how energy conversions take place in their daily lives. Students will finish the unit on energy with a final test. Students will also complete their work on their trebuchets. Congratulations to our East Shore students as they move forward to high school!

Science – Mrs. Coulson (Team Leader) – [Acoulson@milforded.org](mailto:Acoulson@milforded.org)  
Mr. Thomas – [MThomas@milforded.org](mailto:MThomas@milforded.org)

### LANGUAGE ARTS

In June, students will finish the Stepping Stones Unit and Project! Students have been conducting in-depth research on a topic of their choice and taking notes on the various sources they have found. Then, they will use their notes to create a visual aide which will be presented to their classmates to showcase their topic and what they have learned. These presentations will begin on Friday, June 2nd. The Common Core Standards of Reading, Writing and Speaking are being practiced as students read credible sources, take notes and present their knowledge in a variety of ways. We are so excited to see their final products! And, we are so proud of all the hard work our students accomplished this year! Congratulations and good luck next year in high school!

**Below are the summer reading requirements for Foran High School. Be sure to take notes as you read!**

**English 1:** Levels 1 & 2- Animal Farm by George Orwell and one high school level book of choice

**English 1:** Level 3- Two high school level books of choice

English Language Arts – Ms. Buckley – [Abuckley@milforded.org](mailto:Abuckley@milforded.org)  
Ms. Johnston – [Ljohnston@Milforded.org](mailto:Ljohnston@Milforded.org)

### **SPANISH**

As the year winds down, we are in the midst of preparing for our Spanish final exam. The exam will be June 1st and June 2nd. Students should be reviewing notes, study guides and vocabulary lists to prepare. After the final exam, we will be looking at specialty dishes from throughout Latin America and also discussing how eating habits in many Spanish speaking countries varies from that of the United States. Students will also learn how to conjugate –ER and –IR in the past tense. We are very proud of how far the students have progressed throughout the year. They will now be able to communicate easily in both the past and present tense in Spanish. They also have a much more expansive vocabulary compared to the beginning of the school year. We wish them the best of luck in high school! ¡Buena suerte!

Spanish – Mrs. Einstein- [Aeinstein@milforded.org](mailto:Aeinstein@milforded.org)  
Ms. Hannigan- [Khannigan@milforded.org](mailto:Khannigan@milforded.org)

# Humanities News



## Physical Education

### Physical Education

Our P.E. classes are currently involved in a fun and active unit of Capture the Flag. Capture the Flag is a traditional outdoor game where two teams each have a flag and the object is to capture the other team's flag, located at the team's "base," and bring it safely back to their own base. Enemy players can be "tagged" by players in their home territory; these players are then, depending on the agreed rules, out of the game, members of the opposite team, sent back to their own territory, frozen in place until freed by a member of their own team, or "in jail."

We hope everyone has a happy and healthy summer vacation!

Mr. Conrad- [DConrad@milforded.org](mailto:DConrad@milforded.org)

Mr. Kirkpatrick- [Ikirkpatrick@milforded.org](mailto:Ikirkpatrick@milforded.org)

## Speaking of Music

### Band, Strings and Chorus

We would like to extend a huge thank you to the music students and families of East Shore Middle School for another successful year of music making. We are so proud of all the hard work our young musicians put into their music this year. Their growth and accomplishments have been great! We have truly enjoyed all of the various trips and performances we have had this year. We are so grateful for all that you do to support the music program. It is so appreciated and our success is due in part to your support of us and your children!

Milford will continue to offer a summer lesson program for all band and strings students who are interested. Spots will be filled by a first come, first served basis. These lessons provide a great way for students to get a head start on their regional audition, for students to seek extra help in perfecting various

musical skills, or for those that would like to have more opportunity to learn and play more music. Please email Mr. Boccia if you are interested in having your child take advantage of this opportunity.

We hope that you all enjoy a happy, safe and well-deserved summer!

**Mr. Boccia – [Eboccia@milforded.org](mailto:Eboccia@milforded.org)**  
**Mr. Juhasz – [Sjuhasz@milforded.org](mailto:Sjuhasz@milforded.org)**  
**Mrs. Friedman – [Rfriedman@milforded.org](mailto:Rfriedman@milforded.org)**

### **Health**

The seventh and eighth grade students are finishing up the Tobacco, Alcohol, and Other Drugs unit during which they learned a lot of information about the harmful effects of these substances and how to successfully refuse them. The last unit in both grades is adolescent development!

The sixth grade students started their final unit, Adolescent Development!

We would like to wish everyone a happy, relaxing, and safe summer! We would especially like to wish the eighth grade students the best of luck as they start high school at the end of August. Please come back and visit us! To the sixth graders and seventh graders, we will see you at the end of August. Have an enjoyable summer break everyone!

Ms. Giampaolo-[JGiampaolo@milforded.org](mailto:JGiampaolo@milforded.org)  
Mrs. Moore- [Emoore@milforded.org](mailto:Emoore@milforded.org)

## Visual Arts

Mrs. Dotson's eighth grade students are finishing their West Mexican Clay Vessels, the Stair Step Illusion painting using values to create the illusion, and the Kaleidoscope Name Design using colored pencil techniques and color theory for to pop out the designs from each other. The last unit will be Photographs inspired by Ansel Adams. Students will need their phones for this unit. Seventh graders are finishing their Ceramic Plates and Repetitive Print Design. The last unit is a "Stained Glass" project using special stained glass paper. Sixth graders are using classical perspective to finish their One-Point perspective drawings in watercolor or pencil using texture and values.

Mrs. Delio's sixth graders are working on jungle paintings inspired by Henri Rousseau. Seventh graders are using their knowledge of how to make a flat drawing look three dimensional while drawing a bird's-eye view of a city. Eighth graders are using the power of color to merge designs in their warm/cool color weave.

**Happy summer! Grade 8 Happy Graduation and Best of Luck!**

Mrs. Delio [Mdelio@milforded.org](mailto:Mdelio@milforded.org)

Mrs. Dotson [Ddotson@milforded.org](mailto:Ddotson@milforded.org)

## TEC Ed

**T**echnology **E**ngineering **C**ommunication **E**ducation

Students are working on their manufacturing projects which focus on:

Grade 8 students are completing clocks that incorporate their own personal interest and creativity. Folding tables will be next where the students work in teams of 5 or 6. With this project they learn how manufacturing is done in a mass production format. Also emphasis is placed on shop safety, problem solving, technical literacy, mass production simulation, and large group team work. The table project functions as a 2 year capstone project.

Grade 7 students will learn to use power tools i.e. scroll saws, drill presses, etc. Emphasis is on SAFETY RULES, production, measuring, and problem solving skills. The projects are a helix wind chime and a name plate.

**Mr. Kania- [DKania@milforded.org](mailto:DKania@milforded.org)**

## Enrichment

Enrichment students are wrapping up an exciting trimester in Enrichment! Sixth graders are putting the finishing touches on their math themed games. They will be pitching their ideas to Ryan McConnell, owner of the Hawkwood Game Cafe set to open in Milford this summer. Seventh graders are working on their Grade 6 Common Core Math Standards review videos. When complete, these will be available to sixth grade teachers to show their students. This is an exciting time for our eighth grade students! This trimester marks the end of their Enrichment journeys. We wish them the best of luck in all their future endeavors and hope they will come back to visit to update us on all of their accomplishments.

Mrs. Kim, Enrichment – Mathematics [mkim@milforded.org](mailto:mkim@milforded.org)

## Support Services



## PPS NEWS

How to keep your child engaged during those summer months!!

Check out these suggestions from The Chalk Blog on [www.learnersedgeinc.com](http://www.learnersedgeinc.com)

1. **Daily Journal** – have your students keep a daily journal recording their summer experiences – this will keep reading and writing skills sharp
2. **Summer Reading**- Put together a suggested summer reading list. Reading is one of the easiest ways to keep a student’s mind engaged during a break from structured educational activities. Looking for advice on what to read? Hit up your local library.
3. **Get outside and explore** – a trip to the neighborhood park or a nearby forest can be a terrific learning experience. Have your students go into nature equipped with a book about flora and fauna
4. **Advance their education**- Have your students visit a museum of art, history, natural history or science. Go to a zoo or aquarium. trampoline, karate, dance or music classes. The first class is often free and summertime can bring low attendance so it’s a great time to try new activities in different venues they haven’t seen before.
5. **Get Crafty**– encourage your student’s parents to pick up a cookbook for kids from the library and have them follow an easy step by step recipe. Or, get them outside to construct a bird feeder.
6. **Participate in Summer Learning Events**- Provide a list of summer learning events for your students. Check out this [Summer Learning Day Event Map](#) presented by the National Summer Learning Association for summer learning programs that allow your students to interact with others while learning. From summer learning challenges to reading days and educational camps, you can find educational opportunities for kids of all ages almost anywhere in the country.
7. **Learn online** – there are a wide range of fantastic and free resources for just about every type of learner. Some of the most popular games that encourage creativity for younger children include drawing game [SketchUp](#), building online with [Lego Digital Designer](#) or creating a digital flip book with [FlipSnack](#). Additional free apps such as [World’s Worst Pet](#), [Cargo-Bot](#) and [Rocket Science 101](#) can help your student brush up on their vocabulary, flex their brain muscles or even launch a rocket! If these examples aren’t exactly what you’re looking for, a simple search for educational apps in your App Store can provide more options.
8. **Volunteer Opportunities**- Encourage older students to stay active in the community during the summer by volunteering for a local organization. Volunteering provides valuable experience by helping students develop leadership and job skills, exposing them to potential career opportunities, and helping them make their own professional connections within their community.
9. **Stay Active & healthy**- In addition to academic risks, children can also be at an increased risk of weight gain when they are out of school during the summer months. Take advantage of the warmer weather and keep you active outdoors.
  - [Kidshealth.org](#) – How do you feed a picky eater or encourage a child to play outside? Learn how to keep your child healthy with the right foods and exercise.
  - [Let’s Move!](#) – Opportunities for kids to be physically active, both in and out of school and create new opportunities for families to be moving together.

Good news! The library just received a shipment of brand new books and a generous donation of books from the PTA Book Fair. Remember, students can have up to three items from the library at a time. Exciting: Library Maker Space coming soon! A maker space will be open during flex so students can create projects and play! Options will include building design, origami, ductagami, electronics, jewelry design and more...

Mrs. Begin

### How Parents Can Help the Writing Process - Time4Writing.com

Learning to write is an ongoing process. Writing requires the ability to process and organize information and understand the needs of the intended audience. Good writing also requires the ability to judge and make appropriate revisions. There are many ways parents/guardians can help their children enjoy and improve their writing.

- **Give positive feedback.** When reviewing your child's essays, give positive feedback along with what needs improvement. Engage your child in the revision process by discussing the mechanics of writing without disapproval of their ideas. Students should understand that writing is a process and all writers revise their work. Remember, children need encouragement as much as correction.
- **Incorporate writing into family activities.** There are lots of ways to bring writing into daily family life. Encourage your middle school student to write thank you notes and letters, directions for an upcoming trip, or instructions for household equipment. Have your children write humorous poems or one-act plays for family events, or book and movie reviews to share at the dinner table. Journals are also great writing outlets. Ask your children to write about what interests them—even if it's just a paragraph.
- **Don't rush writing.** Make sure your child has a quiet place to write and help them gauge how long it will take to complete a writing assignment. Writing usually takes longer than we think. If the assignment is rushed, students may feel they cannot write, when they really just needed more time to revise.