



Masconomet Regional Middle School

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Welcome Parents and Community Members;

In just a few short days a new school year will begin, and I am very eager to have staff and students return so that our beautiful school may once again be vibrant and filled with possibilities for exciting learning and growth opportunities. The staff will return on Wednesday, August 31st. Our seventh graders will have an all day orientation on Thursday, September 1st beginning at 7:35 a.m., and all students report on Tuesday, September 6th. School will be closed on Friday, September 2nd and Monday, September 5th in observance of Labor Day. Last year we focused on several multi-year themes that support our middle school vision. The first theme promotes that *Engagement, Assessment, and Reflection creates the pathway to our learning success*. The second theme focuses on *Creating a Culture of Kindness*. I am so proud and thrilled to share with you that all the efforts and hard work of the past few years continues to broadcast to all that Masco Middle School is living their mission to support each student's academic, physical, emotional and social development as young adolescents! We are working each day to ensure our students are engaged and experiencing personal growth within a culture of safety and kindness. This year our work remains committed to our mission to keep students actively engaged in their own learning through opportunities to think critically, work collaboratively, and to be creative, as well as to build personal student responsibility through developing a growth mindset/grit within every student. You may join in our initiatives by asking your child to explain what they are learning in class, how much practice or effort they put into an assignment, or if they fail, help them to develop a plan to grow as a result of the set back.

An exciting new initiative that blends perfectly with our goals will be introduced to everyone during the first few weeks of school. We will embark on a community read throughout the Tri-Town, including K-12 students and staff, parents, libraries, town organizations and community members. Together we will encourage all to read the book *"Life Is Good"*, which is the book written by the Jacobs brothers, founders of Life is Good ®. Their message underscores while life is not perfect or easy, it is good! Each school month will promote and have activities that focus on one of their ten Superpowers of Optimism: Openness, Creativity, Gratitude, Compassion, Authenticity, Love, Fun, Humor, Simplicity and Courage.

In your handbook/calendar that students will receive on the first day of school, please make note of several key dates in September. Our Open House will be held on **Thursday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.** We hope that many parents are able to join us and help get the year off to a wonderful start. This night will also be a great opportunity to stop by our library to meet your child's guidance counselor. Furthermore, parents will have the ability to vote for any open seat on our School Council, as well as, receive an overview regarding the many fantastic ways being a member of our Parent Advisory Council, or participating in the Masconomet Education Foundation supports teaching, learning and student activities at Masco. Friday, September 9<sup>th</sup> is Picture Day in the morning and students will attend an assembly to kick off our fall fundraiser in the afternoon. The fundraiser will run from Friday, September 9<sup>th</sup> until Monday, September 26<sup>th</sup>. The profits from this fundraiser support student activities throughout the school year, as well as, assist students in need of financial help to participate in school field trips or activities. Also on September 9<sup>th</sup>, any 7<sup>th</sup> grade student that wears their new Masco T-Shirt, provided by PAC at orientation, to the home football game will be admitted free of charge. This is a great family opportunity to experience the exciting

fun that comes with cheering our Masco students on to a home victory! Our first Early Release Day is scheduled for Monday, September 19th and students are dismissed at 12:20 p.m.

The team letter you received at the beginning of August detailed all the forms that must be signed and returned to school. Please ensure that you read through the student handbook as it details expectations, in addition to, consequences for infractions to school rules. We will provide an overview of any key changes or additions to the handbook with the handbook. I would like to underscore the importance of reviewing the emergency card information to make sure all information, especially your telephone numbers and e-mail addresses, are correct. PowerSchool is proving to be an excellent communication tool between home and school but without the proper information we will not be able to reach you. If any of your contact information changes during the year please remember to notify us so we may update your information. All grading reports will be available through this system. You will receive an Acceptable Use Policy form in the first day packet that contains more specific details and the user agreement. Students will be provided a password to access PowerSchool and will be instructed to share it with their parents. PowerSchool allows parents to monitor their child's progress on a continuous basis; approximately halfway through each marking period, you will receive an e-mail to notify you that it is the mid-point and a logical time to check in on your child's grades and progress. Report cards will also be posted on-line and if you have any trouble accessing PowerSchool you may contact your child's guidance counselor for assistance. All forms must be completed and returned to your child's homeroom teacher no later than Friday, September 9th. A checklist will be provided detailing if a specific form is mandatory or optional.

Please also remember to check our website regularly as it also contains information regarding activities and functions at the middle school. Currently, school opening information, including bus routes, is available on the website and hard copies are available in the office. If you do not have Internet access, please contact Ms. Suzanne Olia at ext. 6118 and we will make hard copies of information and send it home with your child.

If you need to drop a student off or pick a student up between 7:00 a.m. and 7:35 a.m. and 1:45 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. please use the middle school parking lot and let students exit the car once you are near the first entrance. **NO STUDENTS MAY BE PICKED UP OR DROPPED OFF IN FRONT OF THE MIDDLE SCHOOL DURING THESE TIMES.** We thank you in advance for your understanding and in assisting us to provide a safe and orderly environment for our students.

Our goal is to continue to provide strong communication between home and school. Please contact me if you have questions, concerns or just want to share great news about our school or your child! My office extension is X6122 and my cell phone number is 978-423-8375. If you contact me first thing in the day, you may get my voicemail as I will be out visiting classrooms, but I will return your call before the end of that day. If it is an emergency you may contact our administrative assistant, Mrs. Silva, at extension 6127 and she will know how to locate someone to provide assistance.

By working together we can achieve our goal to help each student find success, so that in June, both students and adults can express: It was a great year! Look for the first weekly update from the principal on Monday, September 12<sup>th</sup> and sign up to follow us on twitter [@Masco\\_Principal](https://twitter.com/Masco_Principal)!

Sincerely,

*Dorothy A. Flaherty*

Dorothy A. Flaherty, Ed.D  
Middle School Principal