



MASCONOMET REGIONAL SCHOOL
DISTRICT
20 Endicott Road
Boxford, MA 01921
(978) 887-2323

Middle School
James S. Dillon, Principal
Extension 20016
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Dear Parents/Guardians:

I hope you are having a great summer. My name is Jim Dillon and I have been a science teacher at Masconomet Middle School for the past twenty-one years, and this year I will be the Interim Principal. I have enjoyed working with hundreds of our students over the years. An amazing amount of behind the scenes work has happened over the summer to get the school ready for opening. Facilities, IT, and the office staff are truly unsung heroes. I am looking forward to this year with confidence, knowing that each student that walks through our doors will receive a first-class academic education in an environment that champions good citizenship.

We will continue our mission to reinforce the habits of good character taught to our students at home including; personal integrity, compassion, empathy, generosity, and kindness. Aristotle said, "We are what we repeatedly do, excellence then is not an act, but a habit." We will also model for our students and expect from our students a growth mindset to strive, to take a chance, to do something outside of their comfort zone. Einstein said, "A person who never made a mistake, never tried anything new". Let's have a great year together, and continue the tradition of excellence that is Masconomet Middle School.

The staff will return on Wednesday, August 28th. Our seventh graders will have a half-day orientation on Thursday, August 29th beginning at 7:35 a.m. Dismissal will be at 12:20 p.m. All students will report on Tuesday, September 3rd which also will be an early release day for students ending at 12:20. There will be no lunch served on orientation day, but lunch will be served on September 3rd. The school is closed on Friday, August 30th and Monday, September 2nd in observance of Labor Day.

The school's handbook/calendar is digital and we will e-mail a copy home on the first full day of school. Please make note of several key dates in September. Our open house is on Thursday, September 12 at 6:30 p.m. We hope that you are able to join us and help get the year off to a great start. In addition to meeting your child's teachers and guidance counselor, you can vote for any open seats on our School Council, and receive an overview of how parents can be involved through the Parent Activities Council (PAC), Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC), Masconomet Education Foundation (MEF) or the Tri-Town Council. Monday, September 9th is Picture Day and students will meet by team with Mr. Monagle and me to discuss the upcoming year and our expectations. Let's Go Masco! On Friday, September 20th, any 7th grade student that wears their new Masco T-shirt provided by PAC at orientation to the home football game at night will be admitted free of charge. Monday, September 9th will be our first Delayed Start Day of the year in order to

provide professional development to the faculty and staff. Please note that on Delayed Start Days, which are outlined in the school calendar, student report time is 10:00 a.m.

The team letter that you received at the beginning of August detailed all the forms that must be signed and returned to school. Please review the emergency card information to make sure all information, especially your telephone numbers and e-mail addresses, is correct. As a reminder, if a custody agreement or special circumstance exists regarding safety or parental access for a child, the custodial parent **must submit a copy of the legal documentation annually**. Any change in custody or contact with the student by either parent/guardian must be accompanied by the appropriate legal documentation, or the change cannot be made. PowerSchool is an excellent communication tool between home and school. If any of your contact information changes during the year, please remember to notify us so we may update your information. PowerSchool allows parents to monitor their child's progress on a regular 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. We encourage both parents and students to develop a habit of checking their grades frequently enough that one stays up to date and any struggles can be rectified. Report cards will also be posted online 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 Monday, September 9th. A checklist will be provided detailing if a specific form is mandatory or optional.

Please remember to check our website regularly as it 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 978-887-2323, ext. 20014, and we will make hard copies of information and send it home with your child.

As a reminder, 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 student 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.

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 X20016. If I am not in my office, I will return your call within 24 hours. If it is an emergency you may contact our administrative assistant, Mrs. Silva, at ext. 20011 and she will know how to locate someone to provide assistance.

Working together, we can achieve our goal to help each student find success!

Sincerely,

James Dillon
Middle School Principal