



Masconomet Regional Middle School

20 Endicott Road

Boxford, Massachusetts 01921

Dorothy Flaherty, Ed.D., Middle School Principal

Phone: 978-887-2323 ext. 20016

Email: [dflaherty@masconomet.org](mailto:dflaherty@masconomet.org)

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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 29. Our seventh graders will have a half-day orientation on Thursday, August 30 beginning at 7:35 a.m. Dismissal will be at 12:20 p.m. All students report on Tuesday, September 4. The school is closed on Friday, August 31 and Monday, September 3 in observance of Labor Day. **We are ready and awaiting everyone's return!** We can't wait to have everyone back so that we will, once again, be a vibrant educational community focused on amazing learning and growth opportunities for both adults and students.

Our IT and facilities staff have had an incredibly busy summer as they transition us to a completely new phone system and room numbers. We will all be learning the new systems together, so we ask for patience as we complete the transition. However, I believe that parents and community members will find the rewards extremely positive as you begin to maneuver through either the school building or our new phone system.

The upcoming year will be exciting as we move to implement even more facets of Vision 2025 and connect it to our strong middle school vision that remains committed to supporting each student's academic, physical, emotional and social development as a young adolescent. Two overarching themes will shape our work this year; the first theme is: **Ignite each person's passion to learn through curriculum, connections, creativity, and community.** Our second theme continues to focus on **Creating a Culture of Kindness.** This year, more than any other in recent history, it will perhaps be the most important thing we can accomplish together. As we observe and experience anger and violence erupting throughout our country and around the world, it is vital that we work together to build a community where every adult and child feel safe, welcome and valued. It might be a challenge, however, it may just be the most important lesson we teach all year, and it will define who we are as a community.

As noted in my letter earlier this summer, the school's handbook/calendar has gone digital! 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 13 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. In addition to meeting your child's teachers and guidance counselor, you will have the opportunity to vote for any open seats on our School Council, as well as, receive an overview regarding the many fantastic ways parents can be involved through the Parent Advisory Council (PAC), Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC), Masconomet Education Foundation (MEF) or the Tri-Town Council. Each group supports teaching, learning and student activities at Masco Middle School. Thursday, September 6<sup>th</sup> is Picture Day in the morning and students will meet by team with Mr. Monagle and me to discuss the year's themes and expectations. Get your school spirit going on Friday, October 12! Any 7<sup>th</sup> grade student that wears their new Masco T-shirt provided by PAC at orientation, to the home football game that night will be admitted free of charge. This is a great family opportunity to experience the exciting fun that comes with cheering our

Masco Football Team on to a home victory! Monday, September 10<sup>th</sup> will be our first Delayed Start Day of the year in order to provide professional development to the faculty and staff. We piloted delayed starts instead of Early Release Days last year and it provided a positive outcome, allowing adults to learn while they are fresh at the start of a day and provided students a day to sleep a bit later. 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 you received at the beginning of August detailed all the forms that must be signed and returned to school. 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. Also as a reminder, if a custody agreement or a 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 proving to be an excellent communication tool between home and school, but without the proper information, we may not be able to communicate effectively. 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, but we don't recommend checking PowerSchool on a daily basis as it often results in raising student anxiety levels. 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 10**. 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 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 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 new office extension is X20016. If you contact me during the school day, you may get my voicemail as I will be out sharing in the fabulous teaching and learning occurring in our classrooms. However, leave a message and 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.

By working together, we can achieve our goal to help every 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 10<sup>th</sup> and sign up to follow us on twitter [@Masco\\_Principal](https://twitter.com/Masco_Principal)!

Sincerely,

Dorothy A. Flaherty  
Middle School Principal