



September 2018

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The school year has officially begun! We are very excited to implement many new programs and strategies this school year.

1. All 6th graders will be taking at some point during the year a class called “Habit, Community and Culture.” This is part of our school and district mission to include Social Emotional Learning into our schools and curricula. This course will develop various social, behavioral and emotional skills on how to regulate and recognize one’s emotions, to take perspective and empathize with others of diverse backgrounds, to establish and maintain healthy relationships, and to make constructive choices about personal behavior and social interactions based on ethical standards, safety concerns and social norms.
2. As part of our school initiatives and goals, we will be utilizing a variety of techniques including Problem Based Learning, Research Simulation Tasks, and Socratic Seminars to develop students abilities to problem solve, use evidence and data as part of their reasoning and persuasive skills as well as to improve oral communication skills. These areas will assist students as lifelong learners in the 21st Century.
3. **ATTENDANCE.** In order for students to continue to grow and to develop social, behavioral, emotional and academic skills, they need to be in school. Their participation in class activities, building relationships with peers and staff is imperative for their development into young adulthood. If there are concerns with your child not wanting to attend school, we encourage you to reach out to your child’s Guidance Counselor or Child Study Team Counselor. Together we can work cooperatively to assist your child with developing the necessary strategies to attend school regularly.
4. As always, we strongly encourage you to follow us on Twitter, monitor your child’s grades via the Parent Portal, check the school and district calendar for upcoming events and to get involved with our School & Home Association. Throughout the year, email blasts titled “McAuliffe News” will be sent with upcoming events and news about our school programs and activities.

Again, we look forward to working with you this school year and building positive and memorable experiences with your children in a supportive and caring environment.

Yours in education,

***Debra Phillips***

Principal