A MESSAGE FROM DR. ZAHEDI AND MS. SMITH

Now that we have just passed the mid-year marking period, we are carefully reviewing individual student progress. Please review grades for the first two marking periods with your child helping him/her to reflect and plan ways to either continue successful trends or make improvements wherever needed.

Please contact your child’s teacher directly if you have any questions about progress in individual subjects. Each teacher can be contacted via voicemail or email. As you know, the assignments for the day/week are posted as outgoing messages on faculty phone extensions or on the teacher’s web page. You may also call Student Services with any questions.

A number of students stay after school with their teachers for extra help or for clubs. After they are finished with their sessions or club activities, they report to an assigned area to wait for the late bus. Please remind your child that they may only stay in the school after school hours if they are with a teacher or coach.

We would like to remind you that students are prohibited from possessing smart phones or smart watches (i.e., internet enabled devices) and related accessories (e.g., earbuds) on their person during the school day. Smart devices and related accessories may be stored in a school bag (in the off position) for before or after school use.

Looking forward to warmer weather.

MATH FAIR—MARCH 4TH FROM 2:30-3:30 PM

We are pleased to invite you to the annual Math Fair, which will take place on Wednesday, March 4, from 2:30 to 3:30 pm, in the LAMS cafeteria. Accelerated 7/8 and Algebra math students have selected a math research topic and will be presenting their findings using a poster that provides the history of the topic, along with an activity or interactive demonstration. The students have worked hard their projects and would love to see you there!

INFORMATION FROM THE NURSE

NYS EDUCATION LAW requires the school to have on file a written statement from the parent or guardian explaining each instance of school absence. This note should be given to the secretary in Student Services when the student returns after an absence.

Please see page 14 of your child’s handbook/assignment book for the complete information regarding attendance and written excuses.

The Health Office is obligated to provide NYS DOH during times of increased outbreaks of illness.
ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND MATH ASSESSMENTS

On March 25-27, 2020 the English Language Assessment will be administered school wide. The Math Assessment for all grades is scheduled for April 22-23, 2020.

Please avoid scheduling your child’s medical/dental appointments during the assessment days/times.

CALLING FOR HOMEWORK

If your child is absent, you can call the teachers’ extensions before 9 a.m. to get the homework assignment. If the absence is for 3 days or more, please call Mrs. Tovcimak in Student Services at ext. 26010. Homework may be picked up on the table in the main office hallway after 2:30 p.m.

SAFETY — MORNING PARENT DROP OFF

While dropping off your child, please drive up around the circle and move up as far as possible towards the drop-off sign. This will allow more cars to move in behind you. Traffic build-up on the street becomes increasingly worse when cars stop early. Please note that this is the only drop-off area at this time.

This is becoming a safety issue, and we are taking extra precautions by having additional security measures outside, as students and staff cross the parking lot into the building.

AFTER SCHOOL

Just a reminder: Students are not to linger in the building after the school day unless they are staying with a teacher for extra help or for a supervised club, practice or game. A study room is available for those who need a place to work quietly before taking the 3:45 late bus home. Students should not be in the hallways or waiting around to be a spectator at a game. We need to know where our students are at all times to ensure safety for all.

Thank you for your continued support.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION CLASSES...

Mamadouba Mimo Camara holds the heritage of his country's colorful and lively performing arts and has made it his mission to spread that joy wherever he goes. A former lead dancer with the national company of Guinea, Les Ballets Africains, he traveled the world, performing in thousands of shows, for 18 years before arriving in the Hudson Valley in 1995. He joined forces with Pam soon after he immigrated and together they've taught and performed for nearly 25 years.

As for so many people all over this planet, daily existence is a challenge for the people of Guinea. Economically poor, richness is found through human connection, in family support, in music, in laughter and being together. The art forms Pam and Mimo share are not about soloing or highlighting, but about the power and essence of community - together we are greater than the sum of all our parts.

Pam and Mimo are looking forward to their annual time at LAMS. They feel welcomed and supported by the wonderful PE department who makes this opportunity to experience movement and rhythm from afar a part of their yearly curriculum.
**BE THERE...**

Being in school all day, every day, helps your child get the most out of middle school. Encourage good attendance with these ideas:

* Point out that there is no substitute for being in class. Your child needs to be present to hear teachers explain concepts, to participate in group projects and class discussions, and to ask questions.

* Schedule doctor, dentist, and orthodontist appointments for before or after school hours whenever possible. If you can’t, try to arrange them for lunchtime.

* It will be easier for your child to get up on time for school if he/she has at least nine hours of sleep. Set a reasonable bedtime, and make sure he/she puts away electronic devices so he/she isn’t tempted to stay awake to read messages or play games.

**SIXTH GRADE TRIP TO MEDIEVAL TIMES IN LYNDHURST**

After weeks of studying the Middle Ages in their classrooms, sixth graders will be seeing history come to life during an exciting field trip. **On Friday, May 1st,** they’ll be headed to Medieval Times in Lyndhurst, New Jersey. Students will dine (without utensils in true medieval fashion) on a medieval feast of fruit cocktail, soup, whole roasted chicken, herb-roasted potatoes, pastries of the castle, and that 12th century beverage—soda. Be sure to note that return time to school is 3 PM. Students will need you to provide transportation home. **Please send in the money ($65) and permission slip for the trip by March 25th.**

While they eat, students will see an authentic jousting tournament featuring pageantry, horsemanship, swordplay, and falconry from ringside seats. Students will also be able to purchase souvenirs at the gift shop as well. To catch a glimpse of what the sixth graders will be watching please visit: [www.medievaltimes.com](http://www.medievaltimes.com)

**TEAM PEGASUS CELEBRATES!**

On February 12th, Team Pegasus (Mrs. Kaiser, Mr. Kaplan and Mrs. Clements’ students) celebrated the New Year and Valentine’s Day by having a luncheon. Students prepared and brought in family recipes and/or favorite recipes to share with their classmates. There was a variety of appetizers, entrees, and desserts, including, fried chicken, sushi, and chocolate truffles. The luncheon ended with students sharing positive affirmations with one another. A great time was had by all!
On February 22, Bard College hosted our annual Red Hook-Rhinebeck Middle School Science Fair. Twenty-six students from Linden Avenue Middle School and Bulkeley Middle School shared their independent scientific research at the Reem-Kayden Center for Science and Computation. Student projects were on many different and interesting topics including the effect of blue light on plant growth, how sugar and acid affects tooth enamel, egg osmosis, music and heart rate, pH of saliva, reaction time, determining the effect of gum chewing on studying, mold growth on different types of bread, the effect of music on grades, and types of music that affect plant growth. We are so proud of the effort of all students who participated. Winners from Linden Avenue were: Honorable Mention:

—Ani Safaryan (“Determining the Effects of Practicing a Musical Instrument on Learning a New Language”)
—Brandon Juran (“Rate of Photosynthesis in Elodea with Different Colors of Light”)
—Anna Feraldi (“Is a Dog’s Mouth Cleaner Than a Human’s Mouth?”)
—Wade Hoen (“Testing the Effect of Breakfast on Your Day Before Lunch”)
—Luke Pozniak (“The Effect of Diet on Saliva pH Level”)

3rd Place Winner: Rosa Weisberg (“Determining the Effect of Caffeine on Exercise”)

1st Place Winner: Abby Mercier (“Determining the Effect of Sleep on Students’ Ability to Solve Math Riddles”)

Hook and Rhinebeck would like to thank Dr. Chris LaFratta for helping to coordinate this event, Dr. Emily McLaughlin for her lecture “Right or Left? The Significance of 3-D Space in Science”, and undergraduates at Bard College for judging the projects. We would also like to recognize the following groups for supporting the Red Hook-Rhinebeck Middle School Science Fair: Bard Center for Civic Engagement, Red Hook Education Foundation, Rhinebeck Science Foundation, Red Hook PTSA, Bard College Division of Science, Mathematics, and Computing, Tops, and Hannahford.