



F. A. Day Middle School
Newsletter
May 25, 2020

Quote of the Week

“Never was so much owed by so many to so few.”

---Winston Churchill

THIS WEEK'S QUOTE

This Memorial Day our country finds itself slowly emerging from a national crisis that has impacted all Americans in an unprecedented way. We have had to limit where we go, what we do and how we do it just to meet our basic need for safety. We have watched as medical professionals and first responders walked toward the threat and protected the most vulnerable among us as we sheltered ourselves away. We can never repay them for their sacrifices, which for some has meant their lives and the well being of their loved ones.

Their sacrifices in this moment of crisis helps us better understand those of the men and women who have repeatedly made that ultimate sacrifice since our country's inception, providing a cloak of safety and freedom that is so secure that at times we take it for granted, forget that it is there, and who is providing it. They, like our first responders, walk toward the threat so that we can shelter away. They leave their families, young children and spouses, to answer the call of duty like the men and women fighting today's public health crisis.

Please join me on this Memorial Day in pledging that our gratitude will extend beyond this weekend, rise above barbeques and moments of silence and honor our men and women in the armed services who have died in service of their country by joining their efforts to make this a world that is safe, equitable and free for all.

MEMORIAL DAY

There is no school on Monday, May 25, 2020 in observance of Memorial Day. Weekly Learning Plans will be sent home that week by Monday evening at 7:00 p.m.

TERM 4 REPORT CARDS: NG/P

At the end of the term in June, we will post report cards, but no letter grades will be assigned. In alignment with the other middle schools, students will instead receive either a “P”, “Pass”, indicating that a student has submitted enough work to fairly assess progress given the current circumstances, or a “NG”, “No Grade”, indicating that **“there was not enough work submitted during this term to fairly assess progress.”**

If your child receives an “NG” for the term, it will in no way impact his or her ability to transition to the next grade. Each student and family has experienced the distance-learning model in a different way based upon their circumstances, and an NG grade may be the result of a proactive plan to modify a student’s work or to account for a family’s circumstance during this public health crisis.

If you have any questions regarding your child’s progress, as always, reach out to their guidance counselor or teachers.

On behalf of the Day Faculty, I would like to thank you for your partnership as we guide your students through learning in a challenging and unprecedented environment.

PARENT PICK UP BELONGINGS

The Day Administration Team is finalizing a plan for families to pick up their child’s belongings from lockers at school in accordance with district, city and state guidance for public health precautions. We will be organizing a curbside pick-up of belongings and drop-off of school material. More information will be forthcoming this week. This process will be organized by grades, teams and homerooms, with each homeroom begin designated a block of time between 8 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. The detailed schedule will be sent to you this week, but for now please be aware of the following dates:

Monday, June 8th – 8th Grade

Tuesday, June 9th – 6th Grade

Wednesday, June 10th – 7th Grade

STUDENT SUMMER READING

This year, a Day Summer Reading Committee put together an exciting list of books for our students to choose from for their grade level summer reading. I have linked the summer reading letter and flyers put together by the Day Summer Reading Committee below:

[Day Summer Reading 2020](#) (REQUIRED SUMMER READING)

Each student will be asked to select one of the required reading books in addition to 3-5 books of their own choosing. The shared theme for all of the required books is resilience, and given the current challenging times, we will look to use this theme as a way for students to talk about their experiences as a connection to their shared reading experiences. Along those lines, I encourage and invite parents to choose from among the student summer reading selections. While this is not required, shared reading is a way to strengthen community bonds, particularly in challenging times such as these. If we have enough parents participate, then we will look to do community-wide book discussions in the fall.

I would like to take a moment to thank Jess Steel and the members of the Summer Reading Committee for their work: Kathy Maher, Kathy Lobo, Hallie Armstrong, Brenda Abramovich, Jamie Lightfoot, Linda Kincaid, Michael Pfaff, Michelle LaRochelle.

NPS LIBRARY SUMMER READING

As mentioned above, students are required to choose at least one of their grade level summer reading books, but also need to read 3-5 additional books. To help with student selection, Jamie Lightfoot and her colleagues at the middle school level have once again created a website with booklists of suggested summer reading for our middle school students choice books. Here is a link to her website:

[Middle School Summer Reading Recommendations](#)

The Library Summer Reading suggested titles are available in Sora, our ebook/audio book platform. Ms. Lightfoot has linked the books to the Sora record, so students (or adults!) just need to click and will be prompted to check the book out in Sora. The required reading/assigned titles for each grade level is also on there. From the colorful

menu just choose the option you want to browse. Feel free to begin promoting this site to students.

<http://mslibraries.newton.k12.ma.us/faday/summer2020>

8th GRADE MOVING ON CEREMONY

The 8th grade Moving On Ceremony will be a live-stream event for the entire Day Community and students' families and friends to enjoy **together on Thursday, June 18, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.** The recording will be available after this date and time to view for those who cannot watch on June 18th.

While this event is live-streamed, the components of the ceremony will be pre-recorded and will include musical selections from our chorus, band and orchestra, student speeches and 5-second videos submitted by each student. **There will be one student speaker selected per team, so if your child is interested in being considered, please have them notify their teachers IMMEDIATELY.**

I will be sharing more information with 8th grade parents midweek this week about some of the logistics of recording student videos. In the interim, students should begin to brainstorm ideas. See the guidance below.

8th STUDENT VIDEO IDEAS

From June 1st- 3rd, our 8th graders will be asked to record a 5 second video for their Moving On Ceremony. We will be sharing more information about the logistics as well as a link to where and how videos are uploaded. In the interim, NNHS has already had some practice in doing something similar for their graduating seniors, so they have shared with us a list of possible ideas for student videos. See below:

Here is what your class officers of NNHS had to say:

Students should aim to show their version of Day Dragon Pride in their video, whether that means representing a student organization/ team that has meant a lot to them during their time at Day or with an enthusiastic smile and wave.

We came up with a few more suggestions as examples of this:

- students in clubs/ organizations can hold up an object or trophy from their club
- students in Theatre could wear performance apparel/ hold up something symbolic of their favorite show
- musicians could pretend to play their instrument/ hold it up

- students who are next to each other in the alphabet could coordinate by passing an object/ sign or "giving" each other a high-five
- athletes could show off a "trick" (e.g. lacrosse players cradle a ball or ultimate frisbee players throw a frisbee)
- students hold up a piece of art
- students hold up a sign thanking a group ("shout-outs" to individuals by name is not allowed) in the community that has supported them during their time at Day
- wearing full-out Day Middle School gear and holding your sports equipment etc.
- represent your skills as a dancer or gymnast by doing a handstand or jump or dance move
- waving a flag representing a student's home country
- Have your pet join you!

THIS WEEK'S PRINCIPAL HOURS

The weekly Principal Office Hours for families will be Friday, May 29, 2020 at 8:00 a.m. Day Faculty are always welcome to join. Here is the Zoom link below:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88528680490?pwd=akdtRmhJaVROMDIxZGFIWWM5clQ2UT09>

Meeting ID: 885 2868 0490

Password: 6j11UT

Norms:

- To join, please click on the Zoom meeting link below at the designated time.
- You need to use the chat feature to write questions.
- This is not a "drop in office hours". It is disruptive to add members while the session is going on, so I will only admit participants up to 3 minutes past the start time of the meeting.
- Please join at the designated grade level time to allow for smaller groups. We will use the same link to join. We will admit participants into the Zoom session only on the half hour based upon the grade level schedule. See below:

QUESTIONS AND ANSWER PARKING LOT

We made the choice not to record the Principal Office Hours to encourage an open dialogue, but in return I have captured the questions that parents shared during the three grade level sessions and recorded my answers in the ongoing Q&A Parking Lot that we have created to track ongoing questions about distance learning at Day. See that link to those questions and answers below:

[Parking Lot for Family Questions](#)

Please note that this document will remain live, and you can also use it to add your own questions. I will check it periodically to respond. The benefit of using this format is that many parents have similar questions, and you are able to view all of the responses.

STUDENT SURVEY

This week, Day Faculty will be asking your children to take a survey to offer us feedback on our current distance-learning model. All middle school students in the district will be taking the survey. We are hoping to get a close to 100% participation as possible as the student feedback will be a critical component to any adjustments we make in the future to our current model. We are also in the process of reviewing the parent and faculty feedback already gathered by the district. Please help us by encouraging your child to take the survey. The survey window is Monday, May 18th through Friday, May 29th. Their teachers will be sharing the link to the survey with their students.

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP: *Middle School Matters*

There will be one more book discussion group prior to the end of the school year. The date is yet to be determined. I will update you by the next newsletter.

[Middle School Matters Parent Discussion Guide](#)

PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

VIRTUAL CLUBS

We have created a new page on our website that lists all of the virtual clubs currently being offered through our After School Academic and Enrichment Program. See the link to the “Clubs at Home” page below:

CLUBS AT HOME

My best to you and your families,

Jackie Mann

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