Dear Day Families,

I am not going to start my first newsletter of the year with “welcome back”, because that would signal to all of you that summer has officially come to an end. By the calendar, it does seem that there is well over two weeks of glorious summer days left to enjoy with your families. So, just think of this as a very detailed late summer update.

I would, however, like to take a moment to welcome the new members to the Day Family. As I begin my third year as principal, I can tell you that I enter this building every day with an even stronger sense of gratitude and appreciation for the community that I have an opportunity to lead and be a part of. It is truly my privilege and honor to be the principal of a school community with such a skilled, caring and dedicated faculty, supportive and involved parent community and a motivated, thoughtful and engaging student body. Our strength is in our diversity of backgrounds, skills and thinking, all of which have a place to be heard, nurtured and honored here at Day.

If you are new to Day, this update may be a bit overwhelming, so please know, that although it includes details for our first month together as a school, we will communicate this information weekly and in a variety of ways.

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Quotes of the Week

"'Cause a little bit of summer is what the whole year is all about."---John Mayer

"Keep your face to the sun and you will never see the shadows."---Helen Keller
The most important thing to remember as a parent or guardian of a new or returning student is to reinforce with your child not to worry about anything but walking through the door on the first day of school. Every adult and member of the community will be ready to welcome and help. Please share with the children of our school community that the first week will not be about supplies and homework, but rather about getting to know their classmates and teachers as well as the ebb and flow of our daily routines.

Those of you familiar with my weekly newsletter know that I love quotes to help frame our experiences as a community. I chose this week’s quotes not for who said them, but rather for their message about “keeping our face to the sun” and focusing on maintaining some of that tranquility and calm that comes with summer throughout the year. Toward that end, this year at Day we will continue to focus our attention on forging authentic connections and creating a positive school culture that supports our students and most importantly, motivates them to walk through the door, even on winter days when it pushes the limits of their willpower to come to school before the sun rises. You will hear more in the coming months about our efforts to foster these connections through our weekly advisory, vibrant after school enrichment programs and special events like Teen Speak Out and the Pot Luck Dinner.

Yes, this year at Day will also be filled with rich and challenging academics which include critical thinking and collaborative projects such as Global Goals and Generation Citizen, and synthesis and problem solving as is practiced through our new math curriculum, Illustrative Math; yet our first focus, before all, is to create a school environment that welcomes your child every day. Walking through the door of a school where your child feels they are welcomed and belong is the foundation for their growth both as students and human beings. It is and will remain our primary focus.

So, welcome to a new year at Day Middle School. Although this first newsletter is quite long and chock full of important information, my goal this year is to work with our PTO on streamlining messaging and how we keep you updated on important dates. As you can see, for me, that is a work in progress. I hope to see many of you in the two weeks ahead at parent coffees and ice cream socials, but in the interim, please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you or your child is in need of any support in transitioning to the new year.

All the best,

Jackie Mann
Principal
As you may know, I have joined the newly formed Food Service Advisory Group as the representative from FA Day. There are members from every school in Newton plus a few others that include employees from Whitsons. My goal in this role is to advocate on behalf of the students, educators and parents of our school to Whitsons to ensure issues are being communicated and addressed appropriately. We have met once already and the next meeting is September 9th.

Whitsons is the new food service provider (however many will remember their experience with them from before Sodexo)

I was not part of the selection process but according to the school committee, here are some features we should see with Whitsons once school starts:

- Nutritious and Delicious Food
- Compostable food containers
- Hand crafted cheese pizza
- Meatless Mondays
- Bento Boxes
- Return of pizza from an outside vendor. According to Whitsons, they are finalizing a contract with Domino's Pizza.

We will also be working to address food allergy protocols and access to more detailed food prep and ingredient information to assist parents and students when making their food choices.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL
The Day Middle School PTO is sponsoring an ice cream social on Tuesday, August 27th from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. for all incoming 6th grade students and students new to Day Middle School. This is a wonderful opportunity for our students new to Day Middle School to meet new classmates and locate the team classrooms and homerooms that they will be reporting to on the first day of school, September 3rd. Please note that this is not an opportunity to go into the classrooms as teachers are still setting up. Classroom doors will be locked.

Following ice cream, we will allow students to tour the building. 8th Grade students who were the 6th grade tour guides on step up day will be posted throughout the building to answer questions and direct students.
**PRINCIPAL’S COFFEE**
Our first Principal’s Coffees will be held on Monday, August 26th. On this day, there are two coffee hours to accommodate different schedules: 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. The Principal Coffees will be held in the Day Middle School library. It is an opportunity to speak with me about the upcoming school year and meet other parents from our Day Community. I look forward to seeing everyone there.

**STUDENT REGISTRATIONS**
This year students new to Newton and F.A. Day will be able to register their student by appointment on selected days this summer. **Registration is only necessary for students who were not enrolled in Newton Public Schools last year.** In order to secure a registration appointment you must email Michelle Barry at: michelle_barry@newton.k12.ma.us

**TEAM PLACEMENTS**
Team placements for will be posted by 3:00 p.m. on Friday, August 23rd in the ASPEN parent portal. Please see the link below if you have questions about how to log into ASPEN to view team placements, homerooms and to change demographic information.

When you log into ASPEN on Friday, please note your child’s homeroom and team placement. This will be the information that your child will need on the first day of school. You will also be able to see the name of your child’s guidance counselor.

It would be helpful for you to try logging into ASPEN prior to Friday so that we can help you troubleshoot any difficulties. **Unfortunately due to the late hour that the teams will be posted, we will not have a great deal of tech support available after 3:00 p.m. on Friday.**

Below is a link with “Frequently Asked Questions” and support on how families can log into ASPEN and view team placements. **PLEASE NOTE – STUDENT SCHEDULES WILL NOT BE VIEWABLE UNTIL THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL.**

https://www.newton.k12.ma.us/Page/3129

Families new to the Newton Public Schools will receive an email the week of August 26th with log in information.

All questions regarding team log in can be directed to the resources below prior to Friday at 3 p.m. or again on Monday morning. Again, no one will be available to troubleshooting logging in to the
ASPEN portal after 3:00 p.m. on Friday, August 23rd, so please try your log in prior to that date and time.

All log in questions should be directed to:

The Day Middle School front office (after 8/22/19)
donna_fisher@newton.k12.ma.us

Or our Tech Help office:
ASPEN@newton.k12.ma.us

NEW TEAMS
At Day Middle School, we typically have four teams in every grade. Most teams consist of four teachers each teaching a different subject. Depending on enrollment, however, we may also have a 2-person team, with each teacher on that team teaching two subjects. This year we will have a 2-person team in both 6th and 7th grade.

Below are the new teams for the 2019-2020 school year. The team configuration chart will be helpful when your child’s team placement is posted on Friday, August 23rd. Your child will be given a team and homeroom, and with this chart, you will be able to see the names of the teachers on the team, along with their room numbers.

You will also note on the team configuration chart below that there are two guidance counselors and an Assistant Principal working with each grade level. Your child's guidance counselor will also be posted in ASPEN along with the team placement. Your child will have the same guidance counselor throughout their time at Day.

### 2019-2020 Team Configuration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade 6</th>
<th>Cobalt</th>
<th>Indigo</th>
<th>Sky</th>
<th>Ocean</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>Pfaff 309</td>
<td>Maher 115</td>
<td>Laroche 301</td>
<td>Demarest 116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social St.</td>
<td>Ford 310</td>
<td>Kincaid 109</td>
<td>Comings 302</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>Besse 312</td>
<td>Kronish 103</td>
<td>Monson 311</td>
<td>Becker 101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Kobayashi 307</td>
<td>Kerner 104</td>
<td>Genier 304</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counselors</td>
<td>Thompson/Bryant</td>
<td>Thompson/Bryant</td>
<td>Thompson/Bryant</td>
<td>Thompson/Bryant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AP</td>
<td>Romeo</td>
<td>Harding</td>
<td>Romeo</td>
<td>Harding</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade 7</th>
<th>Phoenix</th>
<th>Cardinal</th>
<th>Fire</th>
<th>Ruby</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>Healy 201</td>
<td>Scott 228</td>
<td>Monahan 227</td>
<td>Marx 229</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social St.</td>
<td>Bolger/Cameron 207</td>
<td>O'Connor, J 209</td>
<td>Wiese 223</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>Conron 220</td>
<td>Barry 202</td>
<td>Burnett 218</td>
<td>St. Clair 230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Baack 216</td>
<td>Gritter 215</td>
<td>Lynch 214</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counselor</td>
<td>Dewees/Burke/Calabro</td>
<td>Dewees/Burke/Calabro</td>
<td>Dewees/Burke/Calabro</td>
<td>Dewees/Burke/Calabro</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Below, are the guidance counselor assignments by grade:

**Grade 6:**
Mr. Jim Thompson  
Ms. Molly Bryant  

**Grade 7**
Ms. Sandy Calabro  
Ms. Meghan Burke  
Mr. Dan Dewees:

**Grade 8:**
Ms. Jennifer Fiske  
Ms. Betty Bernier

**NEW FACULTY AT DAY**
This year we have the fortune of welcoming several new members to the Day Faculty.

Mr. Bob Conron will be rejoining the Day Faculty after a year of teaching math at Brown Middle School. Students may be familiar with Mr. Conron from his role as Ms. Philbin's long-term sub two years ago. We are thrilled to welcome Mr. Conron back to the Day Family as a 7th grade math teacher on our Phoenix Team. Mr. Conron is filling a place in the math department left by Ms. Philbin who accepted a position as a district STEM Coach in Acton/Boxborough. She will be greatly missed and we wish her the very best.

Mr. Shon Brown will be joining us this year as our new Band/Orchestra Director and Music Teacher from South Carolina, where he has years of experiences a band and instrumental director. Mr. Brown will be replacing Mr. Rivkin who left this year to pursue his doctorate.
Ms. Charlotte Ross is joining the Day Faculty this year as our math lab teacher. Ms. Ross will be working with students on math interventions in grades 6-8. She comes to us from Brown Middle School where she taught math last year.

Ms. Laura Hebert is also rejoining the Day Faculty after a year of teaching in another district. Ms. Hebert, as many of you may recall, was the teacher of our Reflections Program at Day for many years. She will be rejoining Day as a teacher in our Bridge Program.

Ms. Cristi Collins will be joining us this year as a clinician in our Bridge Program. She joins us from Brookline Public Schools where she has years of experience overseeing a behavioral program there.

This year we will begin our school year with two long-term subs who are familiar to the Day Community from their roles as teaching assistants. Mr. Derek Savage will assume the role of special education teacher on the Sky Team until Ms. Nemer returns from leave in December, and Mr. Nate Cameron, will assume the role of social studies teacher on the Phoenix Team when Ms. Bolger goes out on leave in October.

**SUMMER READING**

Our focus this summer, as in past, will be on creating a community of readers in which students develop the skill of selecting a “just right” book and becoming independent life-long readers. The summer reading information is also posted on the school web site if you follow the link below:

https://mslibraries.newton.k12.ma.us/c.php?g=589171&p=5971926

**SCHOOL SUPPLIES**

The link for the Day Middle School suggested school supply list is below. As with the summer reading books, if you are having difficulty purchasing supplies, please let us know, and we will support you. Typically students do not need supplies for the first day of school. Teachers will spend time reviewing with students how to organize their school materials, and will let them know on the first day when to bring supplies in. If your child simply has a folder, something to write with, a notebook, and an independent reading book, they will be well prepared for their first day at middle school. Below is the link to our Day Middle School web page. There is a link here that will take you to our School Supply List for the 2016-2017 school year.


**SCHOOL HOURS**

Homeroom begins every day at 8:05 a.m. Students will be marked late after that time. Students may arrive as early at 7:30 a.m. (see below)
Dismissal is at 2:35 p.m. every day except for Tuesdays, when students are dismissed at 1:50 p.m. due to faculty professional development.

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL HOW TO ENTER THE BUILDING

The first day of school is Tuesday, September 3, 2019. Because it is a Tuesday, dismissal, as with all Tuesdays during the school year, will be at 1:50 p.m.

The first day of school at Day Middle School is all about connections with students and faculty. Our goal is to ensure that children get to know the adults and students who will be part of the daily school life throughout the year and become familiar with their new routines. Toward that end, we have established the following procedures on the first day of school:

The doors to the school will open for all students, walkers and students taking the bus, at 7:30 a.m. We ask that students do not arrive before 7:30 a.m. on the first day of school.

On the first day of school, the Day students will be separate by grade level.

Grade 6: Our 6th graders should report to the cafeteria on the first day of school. They can find the cafeteria on the first floor. If they enter through the front entrance, they can arrive at the cafeteria by walking straight ahead into the building. If entering through the back door, they should take a right, and then a left down the World Language corridor toward the cafeteria. Teachers will be outside and in the hallways to direct them. I strongly recommend that parents of incoming 6th graders and new students practice the first day of school routines in advance. Helping a student plan how they will get to school and then return home on the first day helps to alleviate anxiety about transitioning to a new building.

Grade 7: Our 7th graders should report to the auditorium on the 2nd floor upon arrival on the first day of school. They should not travel through the cafeteria, but up the front or back stairs. There will be teachers at the front and back doors to direct students new to the building. Students can sit where they like in the auditorium. Teachers will greet them at 7:50 a.m. Please know that because we are using the cafeteria to greet 6th graders on the first day of school, 7th and 8th graders will have limited access to the cafeteria for breakfast on the first day of school, so please plan accordingly.

Grade 8: Our 8th graders should report to the gym on the 2nd floor. They should travel via the front and back stairs and not go through the cafeteria. Students will be greeted by their teachers at 7:50 a.m. Please know that because we are using the cafeteria to greet 6th graders on the first day of school, 7th and 8th graders will have limited access to the cafeteria for breakfast on the first day of school, so please plan accordingly.

New Students: Any student who is new to Newton or the Day Community and does not have a homeroom or team placement should check in at the front office. We will connect them with their guidance counselor.
My hope and expectation is that ensuring that students are greeted and welcomed by staff on the first day will set the important tone for our school year where students feel connected with and supported by all of our faculty.

**TYPICAL MORNING ROUTINES AFTER THE FIRST DAY**

**Time:** After the first day of school, all students will gather in the cafeteria before homeroom. They can arrive at 7:30 a.m. and breakfast will be available for purchase.

On a typical day (after the first day of school) all students will gather in the cafeteria from 7:30 – 7:50 a.m.

The following options will be available to students during that time: (All students MUST first check in with an administrator in the cafeteria).

**Morning gym:** Morning gym will begin within the first few weeks of school. An announcement will be made in this newsletter about the beginning of morning gym. Any student can participate in morning gym. It is held Monday through Thursday beginning at 7:15 a.m.

**Teacher Appointments:** Students with a pass from a teacher and an appointment to see them may go to the teacher’s classroom before school.

**Library:** A limited number of passes will be available for students wishing to visit the library before homeroom. Students MUST first report to the cafeteria and get a library pass from an administrator on duty.

**Computer Room:** Students who need to print something before school can obtain a pass to go to the computer lab. Students must first report to the cafeteria and get a pass from an administrator on duty.

**DROP OFF AND PICK UP**

**Drop Off**

**Walkers and Parent Pick Up**

Students walking to school may arrive through the Minot Place entrance or the Albemarle Street entrance. Walkers will be assisted by a crossing guard posted on Walnut Ave beginning at 7:30 a.m. We ask that parents be cautious dropping off students on Walnut Ave and follow the directions of the crossing guard. **NO cars are permitted down Minot Place after 7:30 a.m.** in the morning with the exception of those who have been issued a pass by the front office in the case of an accessibility issue for a student.

**Bike Riders**

I am pleased to report that thanks to the generosity of our PTO and the City of Newton, we have additional bike racks for our students riding to school. Students should follow all bike safety precautions including wearing a helmet. They should bring a lock to secure their bike on the racks behind the schools (on the Albemarle side).
**Bus**

Students taking a bus to school will disembark on Albemarle Street, and follow the paved path to the back entrance of the school. We ask that cars DO NOT park in the clearly marked bus loading and unloading zone on Albemarle during arrival or dismissal times. (This zone is near the entrance to the pool).

Below is a link for the bus routes and times as well as bus applications:

https://www.newton.k12.ma.us/Page/807

**DISMISSAL**

**Walkers or Car Pick Up**

Students who are walkers will be dismissed out of both the front and back entrances of the school. If you are picking your child up in the front of the school, please park in a legal space on Walnut or surrounding streets. Your child will walk up Minot Place and meet you. It is important that you have arranged a general location to meet your child. NO CARS WILL BE ALLOWED DOWN MINOT PLACE AT DISMISSAL.

**Bus dismissal**

Only students with a bus pass will be allowed to take the bus. Bus passes will be distributed the first few weeks of school, and we will be checking for bus passes once they are distributed. If your child will be taking the bus to school, please use the link above to complete your bus application and pay the fee in advance of school. It is important that ONLY students with a pass take the buses as in past years there has been overcrowding due to students taking the bus without permission. **We ask that parents DO NOT park in the bus loading and unloading zone during dismissal. Also it is dangerous to try to pass the buses while students are crossing Albemarle during dismissal times. Dismissal times are as follows:**

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday: 2:35 p.m. dismissal, buses depart at 2:45 p.m.
Tuesdays: 1:50 p.m. dismissal, buses depart at 2:00 p.m.

**Buses must depart at planned time due to their next scheduled routes. Please tell your students to report promptly to their buses after dismissal or they may miss their bus.**

**LATE BUS**

NPS offers a late bus for students living in Newton and Boston. The late bus routes do not follow a typical bus route, and students will need to walk a further distance to their home. The late bus is ONLY for students staying after school for clubs, athletics or teacher meetings. It departs at 4:15 p.m. every afternoon. Late bus routes will be posted shortly.

**CLUBS AND AFTER SCHOOL SPORTS**

In addition to our Day Middle School web site, we will use this newsletter to update you on after school clubs and sports. Our past clubs are posted on the Day Middle School web site and will vary depending
on teacher availability. The Afterschool Academic and Enrichment Program will oversee all of our after school programming which includes all clubs, intramurals and middle school team sports.

PLEASE SEE THE ATTACHED LETTERS ABOUT AFTER SCHOOL SPORTS AND CLUB AT DAY MIDDLE SCHOOL.

AFTER SCHOOL RESOURCES FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL PARENTS
Below is a link of after school resources for middle school students compiled by Newton Health and Human Services:
- Afterschool resource listing from Newton HHS
- http://www.newtonma.gov/civicax/filebank/documents/84326

CONNECTING WITH THE DAY COMMUNITY

Weekly Newsletters
Beginning next week, you will receive weekly newsletters via email that will highlight upcoming events and share important information about your child’s experiences here at Day.

Web Site
The F.A. Day Middle School web site will include most information, including the weekly newsletters, as well as our event calendar and important updates and links to emails. The link to the school web site is below:

https://www.newton.k12.ma.us/Domain/26

After School Programs
Our vibrant after school sports and clubs program will begin by the end of September, and in some instances earlier. Information about sports tryouts and club offerings will be updated on the web site below:

https://sites.google.com/newton.k12.ma.us/eee/home

Twitter
I use Twitter to send out pictures of school events and quick updates. You can follow me on Twitter at: @JMannNPS

Email Addresses
The most efficient way to reach any faculty member once school starts is via email. All faculty email has the same pattern:

Firstname_lastname@newton.k12.ma.us

Schoology and Teacher Web Sites
A majority of teachers here at Day use Schoology, which is an online interface that allows them to post interactive homework and curriculum. Students are given log in information to Schoology in most classes.
within the first few weeks of school. Most teachers also use Schoology to post mid-term progress reports, which are updates on students’ academic progress in between the formal report cards. Report cards are issued four times a year, and can be accessed through the ASPEN family portal.

**Day Middle School PTO**

Another way to stay connected with the Day School Community is to join the Day PTO. They send out information about school events and offer opportunities for families to become involved.

Below is the link to the PTO web site:


**School Council**

We continue to look for new members to join our Day School Council. This is another exceptional way of staying connected with the Day Community. The School Council oversees the school’s goals, mission and vision and has sponsored programming for parents. Meetings are typically held once a month alternating between afternoon and evenings on Wednesdays. If you are interested, please email me directly: [Jacqueline_mann@newton.k12.ma.us](mailto:Jacqueline_mann@newton.k12.ma.us)

**SAVE THE DATE:**

- Monday, August 26, 2019: Principal Parent Coffee at 9:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, August 27, 2019: Incoming Students Ice Cream Social from 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.
- Monday, September 2, 2019: NO SCHOOL – LABOR DAY
- Tuesday, September 3, 2019: First Day of School for Students
- Wednesday, September 11, 2019: Day School Council at 3:00 p.m.
- Thursday, September 19, 2019: Back to School Night at 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, September 25, 2019: 8th Grade Trip to D.C. Parent Info. Session at 6:30 p.m.
- Friday, September 20, 2019: Picture Day
- Thursday, September 26, 2019: Early Release – Dismissal at 11:30 a.m.
- Monday, September 30, 2019: NO SCHOOL – Rosh Hashanah

Enjoy the last glorious days of summer with your families. I look forward to meeting your children soon.

All the best,

Jackie Mann
F. A. Day Principal
[jacqueline_mann@newton.k12.ma.us](mailto:jacqueline_mann@newton.k12.ma.us)
(617) 559-9109
IMPORTANT ATTACHMENTS TO THIS EMAIL:

- Supply List
- Day Athletics
- Day Club and After School Enrichment