



## A Memo from the MS Class Dean



Dear 6th Grade Parents and Guardians,

Classes are “getting into the swing” with new lessons and hands-on activities (the pictures here are from science and history classes practicing observational skills and learning about ancient crops in the school garden.) Of course, our next big experiential-education moment will be the overnight trip next week. Please see below for some additional information and important links about the trip -- please fill out the waiver (if you have not already done so) and the new food/medications google form!

### Dates of Interest

- **September 16th, Picture Day** -- All students were photographed for the yearbook and ID cards on Monday. If your child was absent, we will make arrangements later this month to make this up. If you wanted to order copies of the photo but did not send in [this form](#) with a check on the day, please feel

free to send those in with your child any time in the next couple of weeks. Forms and checks can be left with Ms Cebuski at the front desk, and she will deliver them to the photographer.

- **September 19th, Back To School Night** -- This in-person opportunity to meet your child's teachers and hear from them about the classes they teach starts at 6:30 in Schenck Auditorium with a welcome from Mr. Davis and presentations about Advisory and the Health & Wellness programs. At about 7:00 we will break up and head to Advisory. It will be very helpful to you to know your child's advisor's name and room number! Please ask your child for this information or check myDE. (Note that, this evening only, Mrs. Scrivanich's advisory will meet in CC206 so those of you with children in her advisory do not need to make your way all the way down to Swartley in the dark.) Your child also should have emailed you a more detailed schedule for the rest of the evening today during advisory. However, a backup copy of that schedule will be available as a hard copy hand-out during your 7:00 Advisory session!
- **September 26th-27th, Overnight Trip** -- at YMCA [Camp Mason](#). We are looking forward to a bonding experience of team-building games, choice and challenge activities and to having fun together!
  - The [packing list](#) I shared at fall orientation is not very emphatic about outerwear. Please know that we participate in all the various activities rain or shine, so it is important to send rain gear, sensible shoes, and a change of clothes just in case.
  - Here is a [brief itinerary](#) so you have a sense of the activities we will be up to.
  - Please remember to sign the Camp Mason [waiver](#) if you have not already done so. I have about half at this point. Camp Mason won't allow anyone who does not have a waiver on their campus, so it is important to take care of this detail.
  - Please also fill out this [food/medications form](#) so we can be sure to have appropriate options.
  - If your child has been prescribed an epipen or inhaler, please make sure Nurse April has these so she can send them on the trip with us and that your child is also carrying their own. If your child will need to take medications while on the trip, please send these in their original containers with dosage and prescribing doctors' information and in a plastic bag with your child's name on it.
  - In the unlikely event a child needs an emergency room while on the trip, we would use Newton Medical Center, 175 High Street, Newton, NJ 973-383-2121. I would contact you using the information on your profile on myDE, and one of the DE advisors would stay with your child until you can arrive. I will be using a school mobile phone **201-227-3233**, which you can reach out to in case of emergency.
  - If your child is unable to attend the trip, please let me know as soon as possible since this may impact our groups for the choice activities.
  - **About communications:** during the trip, all the advisors and I will be engaged with students around the clock, and the internet reception is uneven -- which means we will not be able to send photographs or give updates to you all while we are on the trip. Please know, however, that I will let Ms. Cebulski in the MS office know of our safe arrival. I will update her if we encounter any travel glitches or traffic delays, etc. so if you are concerned about that on the day, please reach out to her with questions. We plan to return on Friday in time for regular dismissal. Students may carry phones on the trip in Yondr pouches. At a designated time during the evening, we will offer a magnet so students who want to call home may do so.
  - Students will be assigned gender-specific cabins the morning of the trip. The cabins are large, so there will be many students together with their advisors, and we expect this will allow everyone to feel that they will be near at least one friend at night. Advisors will be helping students to move into the cabins as soon as we arrive at Camp Mason and will be able to support students with bunk selection and any discomfort this new situation presents. If you have information you need to share about your child's situation in relation to cabins and bunks, there is a line in the food/medications google form to share that with me, or you can reach out to

me via phone or email before the trip (but, please, not the morning of the trip as we are loading busses!)

- **October 3rd-4th, Rosh Hashanah -- School Closed**
- **October 23rd -- Science Curricular Trip to the Meadowlands --** Look for an email from Mrs. M&M with more information closer to the date.

### **Around the Dinner Table...**

- **Choices and Cuts --** At this point students have made their choices for fall activities, and any cuts for sports teams have been made. While students may initially be worried about what their friends are doing or wonder if they chose the right club, this is a short-term decision and a good opportunity for them to practice trying something new, taking a positive risk, and managing the responsibility for an age-appropriate choice. If your child is concerned, or startled by the experience of trying out for a sport that cuts (the idea of cuts may be new to some children) please reassure them that their teachers, advisors, Mr. Davis and I are all here to guide them. Coaches are also available to talk over any recommendations for practicing specific skills so a student athlete can look forward to trying again for a sports team they might not have made this fall. Please feel free to reach out to us if your child needs some support in this moment. There will be two more seasons of sports/activities choices to look forward to as the year moves on.

### **Reminders**

- **After School Homework Help Starts October 1st --** DE 360 offers homework help on campus in the school library for students here after regular buses leave. If your child is waiting for a late bus due to sports participation, or if they are waiting on campus for a pick up beyond 3:45, we ask that they be in the library. Why not improve the chances they are actually doing homework by signing them up -- using the DE 360 tab on the website?
- **Attendance --** You will want to download the School Pass app if you have not already done so. You can use it to communicate **unplanned** absences or tardies/early pick up plans in a timely way. Instructions are on the website [here](#). Mrs. Jones is our attendance coordinator for middle school. You can reach her at [MSattendance@d-e.org](mailto:MSattendance@d-e.org) or 201-227-3301 in case you do not have SchoolPass or if you have a question.
- **If you are planning an absence in advance, please email me at [urbant@d-e.org](mailto:urbant@d-e.org) and copy [MSattendance@d-e.org](mailto:MSattendance@d-e.org).**
- **MS Office/Day-Of Communications --** Our office manager is Ms. Cebulski. You can reach her at 201-227-3230 or [cebuld@d-e.org](mailto:cebuld@d-e.org). She can help you get a message to your child should you have an unexpected, time-sensitive communication. Please do not contact your child by text message or email that you expect them to check during the school day. We will be working with students on how to manage their personal tech so it is not managing them, and asking them to keep phones and apple watches off and stowed during the day is part of that project, as is checking email or accessing the web only when directed to do so by a teacher. You can help by communicating urgent messages through the school rather than via cell, and/or making it clear to your child that any texts you send are OK to look at after dismissal at 3:25. The teachers and I spend the day engaged with students and so often do not get to email and phone messages right away, so Ms. Cebulski also can help with other time-sensitive questions.

Thank you!

Tasha Urbanowski  
Sixth Grade Dean

