

# EASTHAMPTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## WHITE BROOK MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Meredith Balise, Principal  
Jill Pasquini-Torchia, Assistant Principal

September 5, 2018

Dear Families of White Brook Middle School Students:

It is with pride and enthusiasm that we welcome you back to White Brook! We look forward to seeing you and working with your family to provide the best educational experience for your middle schooler. We hope that you had a wonderful summer and enjoyed many exciting activities with your family. We have spent our summer planning for your child's return or entrance to White Brook Middle School.

Our eager students are getting accustomed to school procedures and are off to a great start to the year. We encourage you to contact your child's teacher whenever you have questions or concerns or wish to share information regarding your child's progress. White Brook will be further enhanced by the return of our dedicated teachers and support staff from last year. We welcome Amy Cheverette (Grade 6), Melissa Zazzaro-Williams (World Language), and Alysha Bisson (Paraeducator). Our staff will bring their expertise, ideas, inspiration, and excellence in teaching to the benefit of all students.

White Brook Middle School utilizes the strategies and resources of *The Virtues Project* to foster academic excellence while creating a culture of caring, as well as trust and unity among our school community. We use it as a central tool to enhance social and emotional learning. *The Virtues Project* is a global grassroots initiative to inspire the practice of virtues in everyday life. It was founded in Canada in 1991 by Linda Kavelin Popov, Dr. Dan Popov, and John Kavelin and was honored by the United Nations during the International Year of the Family as a model global program for families of all cultures. *The Virtues Project* nurtures our students in the skills and qualities they need to be successful in school and in life. Although they are the oldest practices in the world, virtues are essential to the true goal of education: intelligence plus character. We will be sharing more information with you about this project throughout the year.

It is our request that every family view the Student Handbook available on our website. If you would like a paper copy, please do not hesitate to contact the office. Please read these carefully so that you are aware of the procedures and policies of the Easthampton school district. We encourage you to review this handbook with your child. Morning supervision begins at 7:55 a.m. **Students must arrive by 8:15 a.m. every day (five minutes earlier than last year).** It is crucial that students arrive to school on time so that important instructional time is not missed.

Please mark your calendar for the White Brook Middle School Open House, which is Wednesday, September 26, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. Grade 6 student, Osh Goldstein-Dea, will be introducing an interactive map for White Brook's website he created using coding software. Picture day is Tuesday, September 25<sup>th</sup>. We will soon begin our first school fundraiser, butterbraids, which supports field trips and year-end activities on September 17<sup>th</sup>. In October, we will hold our first Fun Friday Dance. The Grade 5/6 dance is 5:30-7:15 and the Grade 7/8 dance is 7:30-9:15. The cost is \$5.00 per student. Pizza and other refreshments are sold during the dance.

School Council members assist and advise the principal, plan educational goals for the school, identify needs, review the budget and formulate annual School Improvement Plans. If you are interested in

*A great place to learn and grow.*

being a member of the White Brook School Council, nominate yourself in writing. Nominations will be posted on our website to help other families learn more about you. Elections will take place during open house. The School Improvement Council will meet once every other month at 5:30 p.m. with school staff. We appreciate these individuals being involved in our school community in this way. Parents are always welcome to attend school council meetings at any time during the year.

We take pride in our school! Students are encouraged show their Eagle spirit. If your child is interested in purchasing White Brook t-shirts, sweatshirts, or sweat pants, flyers will soon be available and can be returned to the office. Please remember that we value your contribution of ideas to White Brook Middle School. We look forward to your continued participation and will welcome your calls and suggestions.

Sincerely,

Meredith Balise  
Principal

Jill Pasquini-Torchia  
Assistant Principal

## **A Virtues Pick**

### **CONFIDENCE**

*Confidence is having faith in someone. Self-confidence is trusting that you have what it takes to handle whatever happens. You feel sure of yourself and enjoy trying new things, without letting doubts or fears hold you back. When you have confidence in others, you rely on them* (The Virtues Project, 2002).

You are practicing **CONFIDENCE** when you:

- Know you are worthwhile and feel sure of yourself
- Don't let fear, doubt, and worry stop you
- Discover your talents and try new things
- Learn from your mistakes
- Think positively
- Trust that all things work together for good