

EASTHAMPTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

WHITE BROOK MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Meredith Balise, Principal

Jill Pasquini-Torchia, Assistant Principal

January 3, 2019

Dear Families of White Brook Middle School Students:

Happy New Year! We are enthusiastic as we begin 2019 at White Brook Middle School. Thank you to all of the families who attended our choral and band concerts in December. It was a true gift to see our students' many talents displayed. We appreciate your support and dedication to maintaining these important programs in our school. Also, our Peer Leaders led another successful grandparent luncheon. The students served 225 grandparents a wonderful lunch and raised money for the Easthampton Toy Fund. The Peer Leaders did an excellent job decorating and hosting this event. We wish to acknowledge Mr. Lennon, Mr. Hovey, and Ms. Corbeil for leading these events for our school community.

Research has shown that most tweens would like to talk more with their parents about schoolwork. Ask your child to share what he or she is learning in classes. Be specific: "What kind of math problems did you do today?" or "Tell me about the science experiment you did in class today." Also, most White Brook students are assigned homework each night. Before your child begins, have him or her make a simple to-do list. Suggest starting with the more challenging assignments. This strategy will help your child finish on a high note. Help your middle schooler see homework as a chance to increase their independence by getting work done on time without argument. Boost your child's confidence by telling students that homework gives them a chance to show all they know.

For your information, during some classes, *Office 365 Education* provides a collection of services, supporting both teachers and students in collaborating and sharing school assignments online. Students do have the ability to access the program at home utilizing the same school issued student ID and password they use at school. Students can log in to www.epsd.us, click on the "For Students" drop down menu, then "Office 365".

The next payment for 8th graders going to Washington D.C. is due January 11 in the amount of \$120; Final payment is due February 15th. Our School Improvement Council will meet on Tuesday, February 5th at 5:30 in the guidance suite. All are welcome to attend. There is no school on Monday, January 21st in honor of Martin Luther King Day and no school for students on Monday, January 28th for teacher professional development. There will be an open house for 8th graders at Easthampton High School on Thursday, February 7th from 6:00-8:00.

The cold continues! Please continue to send your child to school with warm coats, hats, gloves and boots when appropriate. If you wish, you may want to send students with an extra set of clothes in case it is needed. We will offer students access to fresh air and exercise at recess time whenever possible—even when the weather is cold. For your information, lice love winter. Why?


A great place to learn and grow.

Hats! Head-to-head contact with a person who has head lice is the most common way to get it. Head lice move by crawling; they cannot hop or fly. Head lice may also be spread by sharing clothing or belongings onto which lice or eggs may have crawled or fallen. Because adult and nymph lice are very small, move quickly, and avoid light, they may be difficult to find. Treatment for head lice is recommended for people diagnosed with an active infestation. All household members and other close contacts should be checked and people with evidence of an active infestation should be treated. All clothing along with bedding and stuffed animals will need to be washed in hot water. Removal of lice and lice eggs/nits is an important part of the lice treatment process. Eggs hatch up to ten days after being laid and their continued presence in the hair creates an ongoing infestation cycle.

Remember, every day is Easthampton Eagles Day! Students are encouraged show their Eagle pride. This is a reminder that students *must* arrive by 8:15 a.m. every day. It is crucial that students arrive to school on time so that important instructional time is not missed. As always, we welcome your involvement, comments, and suggestions. We are all working for the betterment of our children's academic, social and emotional growth.

Sincerely,


Meredith Balise
Principal


Jill Pasquini-Torchia
Assistant Principal

A Virtues Pick

COMPASSION

Compassion is understanding and caring when someone is hurt or troubled, even if you do not know them. It is wanting to help even if all you can do is listen and say kind words. You forgive mistakes and are a friend when someone needs one (The Virtues Project, 2002).

You are practicing **COMPASSION** when you:

- Notice when someone is hurt or needs a friend
- Imagine how they must be feeling
- Take time to show that you care
- Ask how they are and listen patiently
- Forgive others when they make mistakes
- Are helpful to people or animals in need