



Dear Parents,

Thank you for all your support in making this a wonderful start to the school year. Although the students returned to class only a few weeks ago, activities designed to introduce and acclimate students and families to middle school began mid August. We hosted our annual, and very well attended, "Technology" workshop and "Open House/Locker Orientation". A big thank you to our PTO and the Monroe Youth Commission for sponsoring an "Ice Cream Social" on the day of our "Open House".

Every year, we set goals for the Jockey Hollow community. Along with our academic goals this year, we have set a goal of promoting kindness and safe, appropriate online social skills for the students. Three strategies we will use to address kindness online use and a heightened awareness of the dangers of negative conversations online use will be activity based lessons for students delivered through our "Lion's Den" advisory meetings, our PBIS "Positive Behavior Support" and sharing safe social media use information with parents through resources like "Coffee with the Principal".

Our "Lion's Den" advisory meetings are a regular meeting time in the school day where a teacher and a small group of students meet to discuss various social-emotional and interpersonal topics. The mission of the advisory program at Jockey Hollow School is to connect students to an adult advocate, to connect students to other students, and to connect students to their school.

According to the National Middle School Association (2006), "In the best (advisory) programs, young adolescents have an opportunity to get to know one adult really well, to find a point of security in the institution, and to learn about what it means to be a healthy human being". Further research cited by the NMSA documents improvement in students' decision making, sense of belonging to school, and in teacher-student relations, when a regular advisor/advise program is implemented.

All Jockey Hollow students will meet in an Advisory Group. Students and staff will meet once a month for 30 minutes. There is no grade for advisory. Student participation is the goal and will be assessed by the teacher/advisor. It is the model we will use to develop instruction on "Safe and Appropriate Online Use".

The new school year brings changes and revisions to procedures and policies followed by our schools. The district homework policy has been revised. The new policy includes teacher, student and parent responsibilities regarding homework. It also contains "Suggested Time Guidelines" for homework as well as designated "Home Work-Free Periods". The entire policy can be found in our student handbook on the Jockey Hollow web page at [www.monroeps.org](http://www.monroeps.org). At Jockey Hollow, we have revised our criteria for students to earn "Honor Roll" and/or "High Honor Roll" status. The criteria reads, "To qualify for high honors, a student must earn a 90% average or higher with no grade less than a B. To qualify for honors, a student must earn an 83% average or higher with no grade lower than a C+." "There will be no weighting of grades to determine high honors or honors. The entire criteria statement can be found in our student handbook on the Jockey Hollow web page at [www.monroeps.org](http://www.monroeps.org).

It was wonderful to see so many of you at our annual "Back to School Night". Your support is so important in our working together to provide the best possible education for children. Your compliments shared that evening and during the days that followed are much appreciated by the staff and me. It assures us that you find the information shared during the presentations valuable in assisting you as we start a new school year.

Today marks the mid point of our first quarter. This is an ideal time to review your child's grades on PowerSchool. Please use this report as a positive means to address their successes and growth as well as goals they would like to set for themselves to improve. Should you have questions regarding your child's progress, please contact your child's teacher or team to discuss your concerns. If you need assistance with PowerSchool, contact the Main Office.

May I extend my appreciation for the support I have received from the entire Jockey Hollow community throughout the opening of this school year. It is our working together that ensures the success of each student.

Sincerely,  
John R. Ceccolini  
Principal

*From the Desk of...  
Assistant Principal, Laura Maher*

*Jockey Hollow Middle School*

**2018–2019**

I am thrilled to be involved with such a terrific team at Jockey Hollow. I enjoyed catching up with students about their summer activities and meeting our new students in grade 6 and those new to the Monroe community.

We had a very successful “Back to School Night”. It was wonderful to see some familiar faces and meeting some new ones. I look forward to a great year in grades 6-8. The students have made a smooth transition. Students are getting to class and enjoying the social time at lunch with peers.

Late bus is available Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, leaving Jockey Hollow at 3:45 pm. The after school homework club which meets Mondays and Thursdays began September 17th. Please encourage your child to get involved in some of the afterschool activities being offered. By now, you should have seen the activities booklet of the various clubs available online. Find the link on the Jockey Hollow webpage. Research shows that the more involved students get in the educational process, the more successful they become in high school, college and beyond.

I look forward to another fantastic year full of energy and excitement. As always, feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns throughout the school year.

Laura Maher

Assistant Principal

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**What's  
Happening**

### **THRU NOVEMBER**

October 3rd—Coffee w/ the Principal  
October 3rd—Progress Reports Issued  
October 17th—PTO Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.

November 1st, 2nd & 3rd—Jockey Hollow Middle School Fall Drama  
November 6th—First Quarter Ends  
November 8th—Picture Re-take 8:15—9:30 a.m.—Main Campus  
10:00—11:00 a.m.—STEM  
November 6th—Election Day—No School for Students  
November 14th—PTO Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.  
November 21st, 22nd & 23rd—Thanksgiving Recess

### **PERFORMANCE MUSIC**



#### **Band**

The musical year is underway! All band students should have 3 ring binders with sheet protectors and bringing them to every class. Please make sure your child is practicing 60 minutes per week and signing the practice log. October 12<sup>th</sup> the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade will be playing at the Masuk HS football game with the Masuk Pep Band. Western Region Festival Auditions are in the beginning of December, if your child is interested in auditioning please let Mr. Beehler or Mr. Ances know.

#### **Strings**

In 6th, 7th and 8th grade strings we will play music from the classical through modern era. We will also explore proper playing technique, playing posture as well as concert etiquette. We will be having two strings concerts this year. See the website for Winter and Spring concert dates and times.

#### **Chorus**

The chorus classes at Jockey Hollow are non-auditioned groups who will explore many vocal music styles in various languages. We will also take time to understand our voices and learn proper singing techniques and good vocal health practices. There are two scheduled performances which are listed on our website. Please contact Mrs. Morrison with any questions.

#### **Jockapella**

Jockapella is an auditioned group of 20-25 singers who perform primarily a cappella vocal music. We have several extra performances each year. Please check our website to see an updated list of performances. We rehearse after school on Mondays throughout the year.



The late bus serving Jockey Hollow Main Campus and STEM Academy students began on Monday, September 17th. It is available every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday (except for early dismissal days) until the end of May. Students wishing to use the late bus must sign-up in the main office at the Main Campus any time during the school day. At STEM, students must sign up during lunch. For information regarding which late bus your child would use, check the late bus schedule posted on the Jockey Hollow webpage at [www.monroeps.org](http://www.monroeps.org). The late buses leave STEM at approximately 3:30 pm and Jockey Hollow Main Campus at approximately 4:00 p.m. They arrive at the last stop by 5:00 pm. Extra help is scheduled until 3:30 pm and 3:45 pm respectively. Students will be supervised by a staff member until the late bus arrives.

#### **Reminder—Bus Passes Are for Emergency Purposes Only**

Student safety is a primary goal and allowing students to ride a bus other than their own could cause overcrowding and compromise our ability to manage the system and safeguard our children. We realize there are instances when a bus pass is necessary. For example, a student staying with another family for an extended period of time or an emergency arises during the day and no one will be at home are valid reasons. Please call our main office if you have a question regarding bus passes.

Romina Bourdoulous, Turquoise Team & 7th Grade Counselor  
Amanda Kirk, Aqua Team & 8th Grade Counselor  
John Bevilacqua, STEM Guidance Counselor  
Matthew Curry, School Psychologist  
Lisa Melillo, STEM Psychologist



Officer Danielle Boucher, School Resource Officer  
Dana Weed, RN School Nurse

The Pupil Services Department would like to welcome all students and their parents to Jockey Hollow and take this opportunity to introduce ourselves. We are looking forward to working and learning together and are eager to hear from you with questions and/or concerns.

**Information to 8th grade parents regarding applications to private school....** Jockey Hollow has an important role in the application process to surrounding private high schools. Once you have chosen your perspective school, please feel free to contact Mrs. Kirk, 8th Grade School Counselor, for assistance in Jockey Hollow's responsibility in the application.

**News from Romina Bourdoulous Turquoise Team & 7th Grade School Counselor...**

Welcome 6th grade Turquoise! We are very excited to welcome your children to Jockey Hollow. They have done a wonderful job transitioning. I am happy to have 7th grade Crimson and Sage students this year. I will always make myself available to provide your child with the academic, emotional, and social support they may need throughout their middle school career. I am looking forward to a great year and can't wait to get to know all my students. If you have any concerns at all, please feel free to contact me at 203-452-2905 X6114 or [bourdr@monroeps.org](mailto:bourdr@monroeps.org). I am confident it will be a fantastic year for your child!

**News from Amanda Kirk: Aqua Team & 8th Grade School Counselor...**

I am very excited to be at Jockey Hollow this year and to be working with the 8th grade as well as the Aqua Team in 6th grade! I have previous experience as a School Counselor at the middle school level and am thrilled to joining the Monroe Public Schools.

Welcome to all our of new families and to the 6th grade students on the Aqua Team! We are all off to a great start.

For the 8th graders, we will have a lot of exciting events this year to plan for the transition to high school. On October 23rd, we will have an assembly during the school day to learn about high school options which will include presenters from Abbott Technical High School, Fairchild Wheeler Magnet School, Trumbull Agriscience and others. If you have any concerns or questions please feel free to contact me at 203-452-2905 x6117 or [AKirk@monroeps.org](mailto:AKirk@monroeps.org). I am looking forward to meeting and working with your children this year.

**From the School Psychologist, Matthew Curry...** I am extraordinarily pleased to be working as a School Psychologist at Jockey Hollow Middle School, and I am committed to providing emotional, behavioral, and academic support to all students. I look forward to working with the entire school community to ensure that all learners have the ability to reach their true potential. As a School Psychologist, I provide counseling services, psycho-educational assessments, assist with developing and monitoring academic interventions, and consult with parents and teachers. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns by phone 203-452-2905x6113 or email me at [mcurry@monroeps.org](mailto:mcurry@monroeps.org)



**Dana Weed, RN**

As a health care professional, the nurse supports the health and educational success of children by striving to create a caring and healthy environment that emphasizes the emotional, intellectual, physical and social development of each child. School nurse health services assess student health status, provide emergency care, ensure access to health care and identify and manage barriers to student learning.

**A child should have a temperature of less than 100 degrees for 24 hours before returning to school after an illness.**

- Parents please report any special health problems and/or allergies to the school nurse. If medication is required, please inform the school nurse.
- Medical forms and other health related information can be accessed on Jockey Hollow School web site; departments; nurse/health tab.

**If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 203-452-2907**



Newcomers \* Divorce Transition \* Bereavement \* Social Skills Health & Wellness \* Conflict Resolution \* Homework/Study Skills 7th & 8th Grade Focus Groups \* Managing Anger \* Lunch Bunch

**If you prefer not to have your child participate in these groups please contact us.**

These groups are organized as needed.  
We welcome any of your suggestions for other programs.

2018—2019  
**JOCKEY HOLLOW**  
**MAIN CAMPUS & STEM ACADEMY**

**EXTRA HELP  
SCHEDULE**

**Any morning with prior notice**  
**MAIN CAMPUS**

<b><u>Monday</u></b> <b><u>After School</u></b>	<b><u>Wednesday</u></b> <b><u>After School</u></b>	<b><u>Thursday</u></b> <b><u>After School</u></b>
Mrs. Albaladejo Mrs. Alterman Mrs. Ballas Mrs. Carey Mrs. Conte Mrs. Coppola Mrs. Crenwick Mrs. DelVecchio Mrs. Green Mrs. Lashar Mrs. Nobili Mrs. Summ Mrs. Sawyer	Ms. Daley Mr. DelVecchio Mrs. Flynn Mrs. Lima Mrs. Lynn Mrs. Perkins Mrs. Roman	Mrs. Amato Mrs. Benedict Mrs. Chadwick Mrs. Foley Mr. Halliwell Ms. Jennings Mrs. Lever Mrs. Michols

**STEM ACADEMY**

<b><u>Monday</u></b> <b><u>After School</u></b>	<b><u>Wednesday</u></b> <b><u>After School</u></b>	<b><u>Thursday</u></b> <b><u>After School</u></b>
Mrs. Forte Ms. Donahue Mrs. Mancini Ms. Williams	Mrs. Hilmar-Braga Mrs. Russell Mrs. Shaw Mrs. Carter	Mr. Cacace Mr. Horvath Mrs. Higgins Mrs. Ruiz



**JOCKEY HOLLOW**  
**MAIN CAMPUS & STEM ACADEMY**

Wednesday, October 3, 2018 @ 6:30 p.m. in Jockey Hollow's Library.

"Coffee with the Principal" is an opportunity to gather informally for conversations regarding school related topics. Our first "Coffee with the Principal" for this school year will address "PowerSchool tutorial for parents; everything you want to know about PowerSchool as a tool for parents". Technology Specialist, Lisa Peterson will be present to explain the many advantageous uses of PowerSchool for parents. All are welcome to attend.

Mr. Ceccolini will be present and share information regarding revised Honor Roll criteria and the revised policy regarding home work. Details can be found at the following link [Coffee With The Principal](#).

Come enjoy a cup of coffee and conversation. We invite you to share ideas, interests, thoughts, and questions.

The informal get together will take place in the Jockey Hollow Library. As we all will enjoy the opportunity of the get together with adults, please make child care arrangements.

*Join us Wednesday, October 3rd @ 6:30 p.m.*

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Jockey Hollow Middle School  
Fall Drama Presents...**

**RUMORS**  
*by* Neil Simon

**Performance dates:**  
**November 1st, 2nd & 3rd**  
**@ 7:30 p.m.**  
**Jockey Hollow's Auditorium**

**Hope to see you there!**