

# LION PRIDE



## DRYDEN MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

LORA CHAMPLAIN, PRINCIPAL

SARAH POWELL, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

### *Hello Dryden Middle School Families!!*

The first month of school has come and gone! The school year has gotten off to a great start. Staff and students are finally settling back into the school mode and familiar routines. Like in most schools, the first month of school is about establishing and reestablishing new and old relationships. As the principal, I understand the importance of establishing positive relationships with all stakeholders in our community. It is vital that our parents, students and teachers establish solid, positive relationships with each other. Studies also show that all students perform better in and out of the classroom, when a positive relationship is built with their teachers. Furthermore, that relationship is even stronger when parents and teachers are on the same page. Here at DMS, we welcome all parents to get involved in educating their child. Additionally, the first month of school for middle schoolers is a time where we assess a student's academic levels.



This is accomplished through a number of ways. At Dryden Middle School, students take the STAR test, which is a national standardized testing protocol that gives educators the ability to ascertain a student's academic level in comparison to their peers locally and

nationwide. Students are tested in mathematics, and English/language arts-ELA. Students receive a STAR score which identifies a student's academic level, his or her area of strength and where further development is needed. ELA, Reading and Math teachers will be meeting to discuss these results and if a student is found to be needing additional assistance you will receive notification that your child has been invited to our Tutoring Program or is being placed in a Math Lab and/or Reading Lab. In September, many of our fall sports programs started and have gotten off to a great start. Various clubs have begun to meet and we are excited for Spirit Week/Homecoming, and the Halloween Dance. Exciting times ahead!

# Character Champions

## Month of September



The Counseling Office is excited to introduce our new “Character Champions” program! Select students will be recognized each month for displaying specific character qualities. Two students from each grade level will be chosen as champions for each month’s character value. These students are rewarded with a certificate and a small prize, as well as recognition in the newsletter.

Queen Champlain declared that September’s character value was “**Love of Learning!**” September’s Character Champions are:  
6th grade- *Autumn Koeckbacker and Grant Thomas*  
7th grade- *Briana Freelove and Damian LaMorte*  
8th grade- *Madison Kelsey and Brandon Freeland*  
Great work in demonstrating Love of Learning! Keep it up!

Queen Champlain has proclaimed that October’s character value is **Teamwork**. Look for opportunities to demonstrate teamwork and you could be an October Character Champion!

## Look Out For Kids on Bikes!

The Middle School is well under way with their OUTRIDE program, formerly known at Riding for Focus. They are learning important life skills of bike riding. These skills include control of their bike with starting and stopping, merging with vehicles, signals to be predictable, and shifting their gears to keep a steady cadence. Studies prove that riding bikes can improve the children’s social, emotional and academic wellbeing. If you are on campus... look for us!!





# Falling For Science

## 6th Grade Science

The first five weeks of school have been busy and exciting for sixth grade students. Students have gotten into routines, learned how to navigate through the halls and started to dig into sixth grade curriculum. In science students are learning:

- How to be scientists
- Working in groups
- Metric measurement

As part of the science curriculum, we take a trip every year to Lime Hollow to learn about the Ecology of our area. Our next unit of study is Ecology and students engaged in hands on learning about our natural environment. Some of the days activities included:

- A nature hike and scavenger hunt

- A journey through the water cycle
- “Oh Deer” a game about deers dependence on natural resources
- A guided nature tour with Peter from Lime Hollow
- Team Building activities

The weather was great and the students seemed to enjoy learning outdoors!

Thanks to the parents that joined us for the day.



# ELA & SS Team Up!

## 8th Grade ELA

In ELA, we are reading our first book entitled *Inside Out and Back Again* by Thanhha Lai. In this book, students will explore the Vietnam war, the life of refugees, and what it's like to leave your homeland. At the beginning of the year we explored the United Nations' Declaration of Human Rights and will continually revisit this document as we read and learn about war, resettlement, and the refugee experience.

Since this book takes place during the Vietnam War, 8th grade ELA and 8th grade Social Studies have teamed up. In Social Studies, students will be learning about the Vietnam War so they can better understand the concepts and setting of *Inside Out and Back Again*. Each day, students will be focusing on different skills while they read including using context clues, inferencing, annotating, and identifying figurative, sensory, descriptive, and transitional language. There will be a lot of collaboration, group work, and opportunities to creatively express what we are learning.

In addition to our core text, students will be given the opportunity to read for enjoyment every Friday during Reading Day. During this time, students will be reading a book of their choice and the librarian will be teaching students all about various genres. We are excited for this new year! Feel free to follow us on Instagram @ela9\_dryden to stay up to date on homework assignments and activities we are doing during class!



## Art Students of the Month

A new 6th grade and 8th grade "Art Student of the Month" will be announced on the last school day of each month. Students are selected based on their positive attitude, creative thinking, and outstanding effort demonstrated throughout the month. The 6th grade Art Student of the Month is Nico Scott-Mendez. The 8th grade Art Student of the Month is Claira Cuykendall. Congratulations to you both!