

LION PRIDE



DRYDEN MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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Upcoming Concerts

Musical events not to miss!

Our 6th Grade members are preparing for their performance with the Lion Band and High School Concert Band. The concert will be held on **Wednesday, 3/20/19 at 7:00 pm.**

The Lion Band, 6th Grade Band, and HS Concert Band will perform a few selections each and also join forces for a grand finale. Their final piece will feature all three bands at once. Please feel free to join us at 7:00 p.m. This concert is FREE and open to the public.

Our Middle School Jazz Band is hard at work preparing for this year's Annual Jazz Dessert Night. This event will be held in the Middle School Cafeteria on **Friday, April 26th at 7:00pm.**

This annual event will feature the Middle School Jazz Band, Beyond Measure, and the High School Jazz Band. It is the largest fundraiser of the year for the Dryden Music Boosters.

DMS Variety Show

The 3rd Annual Dryden Middle School Variety Show will be held Friday, April 12th -the time is still to be decided. Come celebrate with our students and staff! The show will feature singing, dancing, comedy, and several other surprises. The production will be open to parents and the community, but visitors will need to check in with Ms. Lonsky in the main office before taking their seats in the auditorium. It's going to be a great time!

Sixth Grade Science

Students in 6th grade science have been engaged in a series of activities to learn about energy and matter. They have been building atoms and molecules on a great website, Phet Science. These simulations help students understand a little chemistry as they are able to look inside an atom and place the subatomic

particles in the correct position. They are able to build single and multiple molecules as they combine elements together to make different substances. As we wrap up matter we will be moving on to studying the differences between potential and kinetic energy as well as the many forms energy takes.

Our next unit focuses on earth systems as we learn about the geological age of Earth, and how earth is shaped. Students will study the fossils from Pangaea and other continents to understand the shifting and moving of the earth.



Middle School Math

March Madness?? Or is it March **Mathness**? Do you think that you can get the perfect March Madness bracket? March is not only a month where we wait for the snow to melt, we gather around the television to support our local or favorite college basketball team as they dance to the Final Four. Out of the total 67 games (including the first four games) college basketball fans create a bracket and compete against each other to see if they can get the PERFECT bracket.

Our honors Math 7+ class will be calculating the probability of each team winning based on their seed. Looking at the history of the frequency of seeds winning the national championship, they will create

a bracket after Selection Sunday to see if they can create the perfect March Madness bracket.

What are the odds of having a perfect bracket? According to an article from the Department of Mathematics at Duke University, "Bracket math isn't an exact science, but for years mathematicians have told us that the odds of picking a perfect NCAA tournament bracket are a staggering 1 in 9,223,372,036,854,775,808 (that's 9.2 quintillion)."

According to Duke math professor Jonathan Mattingly, "The average college basketball fan has a far better chance of achieving bracket perfection. Taking into account the fact that a 16 seed has never beaten a one

seed (meaning your bracket should have four guaranteed wins) and adjusting probability based on seeding, the odds of picking all 32 games correctly is actually one in 2.4 trillion." However in 2018, a 16th seed team (UMBC) did beat a one-seed team (Virginia)... so back to the odds of 9.2 quintillion!

Join us as we watch to see the perfect bracket, who will win? A one-seed team or will you be cheering for the Cinderella team to make it to the Big Dance?



Middle School Music

Dryden Middle School band students have been hard at work practicing their instruments both in and out of school. Thanks to the computer program "SmartMusic" students are able to record their performance and get instant feedback on their accuracy. Many students are exploring the various options their premium account holder status affords them. Our Dryden Music Students and Dryden Music

Department would like to thank the Dryden Technology Department for helping get each student set up with their own personal accounts.

Students are also encouraged to take their instruments home every day and to practice daily from their personal paper copies of their lesson books. Please continue to ask your young musician to perform examples from their lesson

book for you at home. You can find a "How To Guide and Workbook for Music Student Practice" with lots of tips and information about the importance of daily practice and an interesting article about "The Neuroscience of Deliberate Practice" by Gregg Goodhart at the following links:

<https://sites.google.com/a/dryden.k12.ny.us/band7-8/lessons>
<https://sites.google.com/a/>

Student Council

February and early March were very busy for Student Council. During the last week of

championship match came down to two teams, The Nerds (and 8th grade team) and The Powerful Pineapples (a 6th grade team). The Powerful Pineapples came out victorious but only after defeating The Nerds in two straight games.

On Friday, March 1st, we hosted a decades dance. Students and teachers came dressed in their favorite decade and danced to current and throwback music. The student council was able to raise money to support programming in our school as well as scholarships for the eight



grade trip, while students had a great time. Coming at the end of March all students in the middle school will have the opportunity to compete in Battle of the Grades, a fun hour of silly games and competitions that allows everyone to blow off some steam while engaging in grade/team building activities. The winning grade will have their name put on a plaque on our trophy.



February we hosted a dodgeball tournament with eight teams competing for the title of Dodgeball Champion. It was a fun and spirited competition. The

Cyber Safety

Many Dryden Middle School students are familiar with using Instagram, Facebook, Snapchat, Musical.ly, Whatsapp, and other platforms. With so many social media accounts and apps becoming normalized and a distraction to daily activities, the Counseling Office encourages parents and caregivers to review their child's knowledge of cyber safety. In fact, cyber safety concerns are some of the reasons Dryden Middle School has advised students not to use their cell phones during the school day. It is far too common for students to both add and message strangers from their accounts. Please advise your student not to add people they do not know, and never send personal information or explicit photographs to anyone.



If students receive threatening or inappropriate contact from others, they should screenshot any messages and tell a trusted adult as soon as possible. Students can take some control of the situation by blocking any offenders to make it more difficult for them to get an audience. The recent rise of reports of unsettling internet videos (allegedly instructing viewers to commit high risk acts) brings to light the importance of having open conversations about cyber safety with your child. "Parents are critical players in children's ability to foster healthy internet habits, including transparent conversations about what kids are seeing online and how it makes them feel," says Brenda

McQuillan, a mental health therapist at the Justice for Children Advocacy Center.

Setting filters and other protection measures on their phones and apps that allow you to screen available content are just one of the many ways you can monitor their online activity.

We encourage you to start a dialogue with your child about their online activities by asking them about their accounts, profiles, and contacts.

The Dryden Middle School mission is to promote the core values of excellence, integrity, and creativity.
