



MS Class Dean Update



Dear 8th Grade Families,

I hope your child has enjoyed the start of school! The beginning of the year is exciting, and also can be exhausting and overwhelming. Please know that there are a lot of adults on campus to support your child *and* you. Please reach out to me, Ms. Levitan, Middle School Counselor, or your child's advisory teacher with any questions or concerns. It's been great getting to know them so far and for them to get to know us. We played Kahoot! by Advisory on the first day. The topic was "Who Are You?" on their 8th grade teachers and it was so fun to see them collaborate and compete by Advisory. (Ms. Mastrantone's Advisory won!) Those photos are part of a display on the 8th grade floor. I also have asked the students to send me a summer snapshot from their summer so please check with your child that they have sent me one!

Dates of Interest

- **September 10, Club Selection** -- During an activities-period advisory, students learned about the fall clubs that will meet during activities periods and signed up for their preferences (Tues. & Thurs. 2:40-3:25). All students are required to fill this time block with a club or sport. Those interested in

participating in a sport instead of doing clubs in the fall had the opportunity to meet with coaches. Getting involved in clubs can create opportunities to make new friends (clubs include 6th, 7th and 8th graders all together) and discover new interests as well as build upon current passions. Students should see their club assignments on the myDE portals next week. Clubs start meeting on the 15th.

- **September 14, after school, Fall Sports and Try-Outs Start** -- If your child is interested, they should check their email and fill out the form sent by our athletic director earlier this week. Middle School is a great time to try something new! You may want to encourage your child to go out for a sport, even if just to see what it is like. Weekly practice/try-outs [schedules](#) are posted on the [athletics page](#) of the school website.
- **September 15, Back To School Night** -- Look for an email invitation soon.
- **September 16th, Picture Day** -- All students are photographed for the yearbook and ID cards. Information can be found here:  [8th: HighpointPhotoDayInfo2026.pdf](#)
- **September 21, Yom Kippur** -- No School
- **September 23-25, Seek trips**--Instead of the entire grade going on one trip, the 8th grade instead goes to different locations. This enables the trips to be more focused around a theme and interests, allows smaller groups of students and teachers to connect, and provides a nimbleness to the trips. It also gives the students more choice. A student committee (in 7th grade grade) works on researching and developing trip ideas that we use in concert with the travel organization D-E contracts with. The locations this year are *Boston, Cape Cod and Burlington, VT.*
 - Here is the slide presentation given to the students today:
 [Sept. 2026: Seek trip slideshow picking choices](#)
 - The goal is to give everyone a trip they want to go on and with some (but not all) of their friend(s) on the trip. This year, it is a bit more challenging as we are going to three locations, not four. As I always tell the students, "My goal is not to make you miserable on the trip. And you get out of the trip what you put into it." I share this with you as your child may express some disappointment on their trip location or peers on the trip, but this is an opportunity for students to demonstrate some of D-E's core values such as commitment, community, and courage.
 - There will be different waivers per trip and different itineraries. I will be sending more information soon. Your timely attention to returning/completing the waivers is appreciated!
 - All of the 8th grade advisors chaperone one of the trips as well as myself and Mr. Davis.
 - If your child is having their birthday on one of the overnight trip dates, please let me know!

Please reach out with any questions.

Warmly,

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