

Middle School Council Meeting Minutes
October 12, 2018

Update From Dr. Roy Montesano

The school is still doing flood recovery inside the building. Most classrooms have been reopened. The floor of the Main Gym needs to be replaced. A contractor is slated to start the work and the hope is to have it back on line by Thanksgiving. The school is reviewing the flood mitigation system to see where the issues are. Additional pumps will be installed after the first of year. The Board has hired a consulting engineer to see what can be done to help mitigate flooding on Meadow Avenue. This will be discussed at the next Board meeting. The Blue Gym isn't open yet because the school is waiting for the final report to make sure it is safe to occupy. It should be ready within a week.

Update on Teen Center - Cece Heraty

Teen center is on Oct. 19th for 8th graders and on Oct. 26th for 7th graders. We are revamping it this year. There will be Karaoke, Dodgeball and Glow in the Dark paint. There are also some new Ping Pong tables and Spike Ball.

Update from Middle School Council Chair Deirdre Curran

- 6th grade working on pumpkins
- 7th grade has Williamsburg coming up
- 8th grade - Snowflake Ball is January 11th. It's wrong in the calendar
- From Bronxville School Foundation: There is a Jewelry Show on Oct. 23rd and 24th at the Hanrahan Home on 6 Leonard

Update from Middle School Principal Dr. Thomas Wilson

Williamsburg

The Williamsburg trip fits well with 7th Grade curriculum. There is a project back at school after the trip related to what was studied on the trip. There will be a parent evening to talk about the trip as well as written material on November 1st at 7pm in the MPR.

Room Assignments: Papers about rooming go to parents who have conversations with their child. Students write down 5 names. They are guaranteed to get at least one of the people in their top 5. Once it's announced we don't change assignments. Bus groups and work groups are different from rooming groups.

Electronics: Kids can bring phones, tablets and chromebooks. They shouldn't bring anything too valuable in case it gets lost/damaged.

State Tests

The State Test have changed from a 3-day timed test to a 2-day untimed test. For Bronxville, the aggregate results of the test are most useful. We can look at how our cohorts are doing with specific skills like computation in math and abstract reasoning in English. We spend a lot of time on item analysis and how a cohort is doing.

The tests are less useful when looking at an individual child's performance. The test scores for your child can be found on the portal under "Campus Backpack." We don't use the tests for placing kids in classes.

The NY State Department of Education has a robust website that includes a lot of data and you can compare Bronxville with other schools. The site is Nysed.gov. You can then Click on District and find Bronxville and other schools. There will also be a link to this site in the Bulletin.

Question: What does the English Language test look like?

Answer: There are passages (1-3 pages) and the kids are asked questions about them. The questions tend to be high level and require the ability to have insight and make connections.

This is worked on constantly in language arts classes. The kids also have to write short essays - - make a thesis and support it.

Opting Out: It is a problem when kids opt out because if more than 5% opt out, the school does not show annual progress. It should be an anomaly that someone opts out. Please come talk to me if you want your child to opt out.

Question: Do we use this test to assess teachers?

Answer: Yes, it is part of the discussion with teachers.

Tutors

In Bulletin, there will be a link for available High School tutors. They have been vetted by the Guidance Department.

Comment: The Bronxville Library allows tutoring in the Library