

SCARSDALE MIDDLE SCHOOL HANDBOOK
2009-2010

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**SCARSDALE MIDDLE SCHOOL
2009-2010 First and Third Quarter**

Time Schedule for Grades 6, 7, 8

Grade 6		Grade 7		Grade 8	
Time Block	Time	Time Block	Time	Time Block	Time
Homeroom	8:10 – 8:20	Homeroom	8:10 – 8:20	Homeroom	8:10 – 8:20
1	8:20 – 9:08	1	8:20 – 9:08	1	8:20 – 9:08
2	9:08 – 9:56	2	9:08 – 9:56	2	9:08 – 9:56
3	9:56 – 10:44	3	9:56 – 10:44	3	9:56 – 10:44
LUNCH 4	10:44 - 11:22	4	10:44 – 11:31	4	10:44- 11:31
5	11:22 – 12:09	LUNCH 5	11:31 – 12:09	5	11:31 – 12:18
6	12:09 – 12:56	6	12:09 – 12:56	LUNCH 6	12:18 – 12:56
7	12:56 – 1:43	7	12:56 – 1:43	7	12:56 – 1:43
8	1:43 – 2:30	8	1:43 – 2:30	8	1:43 – 2:30

Periods are 47-48 minutes in length and the lunch periods are 38 minutes in length.

**SCARSDALE MIDDLE SCHOOL
2009-2010 Second and Fourth Quarter**

Time Schedule for Grades 6, 7, 8

Grade 6		Grade 7		Grade 8	
Time Block	Time	Time Block	Time	Time Block	Time
Homeroom	8:10 – 8:20	Homeroom	8:10 – 8:20	Homeroom	8:10 – 8:20
1	8:20 – 9:08	1	8:20 – 9:08	1	8:20 – 9:08
2	9:08 – 9:56	2	9:08 – 9:56	2	9:08 – 9:56
3	9:56 – 10:44	3	9:56 – 10:44	3	9:56 – 10:44
4	10:44 – 11:31	4	10:44- 11:31	LUNCH 4	10:44 - 11:22
LUNCH 5	11:31 – 12:09	5	11:31 – 12:18	5	11:22 – 12:09
6	12:09 – 12:56	LUNCH 6	12:18 – 12:56	6	12:09 – 12:56
7	12:56 – 1:43	7	12:56 – 1:43	7	12:56 – 1:43
8	1:43 – 2:30	8	1:43 – 2:30	8	1:43 – 2:30

Periods are 47-48 minutes in length and the lunch periods are 38 minutes in length.

GENERAL INFORMATION

SCHOOL HOURS

The Middle School, which houses grades 6-8, is in session Monday through Friday from 8:10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Students arriving after 8:15 p.m. must report first to the House Counselor's office with a note from home before going to their classes. Teachers are available for extra help after school, except on Mondays.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

This year, new security procedures will be in place at the Middle School.

1. At 8:30 a.m. all exterior doors except the main entrance will be locked.
2. Parents and other visitors must enter the building through the main entrance at the top of the hill. Limited visitor parking is available behind the CHOICE building on the right side of the hill.
3. Once visitors enter the building they must sign in at the main office and receive a visitor's pass before proceeding to their destination and must wear the pass at all times when in the building.
4. The main entrance to the building will be monitored by a closed circuit camera.

TRANSPORTATION

BUSES

To ease traffic congestion, students should ride the buses to school if they are eligible for bus service. Students eligible for transportation will be mailed a bus pass, bus schedule, and other necessary information prior to the opening of school. Students may only ride on the buses to which they are assigned. Any exceptions to this must be referred to an Assistant Principal. Bus Depot: 721-2433

At the close of school each afternoon, buses will leave the Middle School at 2:40 p.m. A late bus will depart at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday for students who wish to participate in after-school activities, confer with a teacher or use the library. This bus is available only to those students eligible for transportation.

It is mandatory that all students who ride school buses behave in an acceptable manner at all times, or they will lose their privilege to ride the bus for a designated period of time. Questions regarding bus discipline are referred to an Assistant Principal.

There are also private buses that are arranged by parent groups for those students who live within 1 1/2 miles of the school. These buses do not run at 3:30 p.m. Please refer to your student directory for the contact names and numbers to participate in one of the following neighborhood bus groups: (To find these numbers refer to the Middle School Directory)

Fox Meadow

Greenacres

Heathcote/Murray Hill

West Quaker Ridge/Heathcote

Quaker Ridge/Secor Farms

Randy Blitstein 472-7475

Lisa Shemesh 723-3353

Gail Horwood (tent.) 725-8493

Susan Minster 723-6850

Monica Reynolds 472-6810

Robin Bochner 472-7393

BICYCLES, SKATES, SCOOTERS AND SKATEBOARDS

Bicycles that are ridden to school are to be parked and locked in the bicycle racks in the lower parking area. Students who use in-line skates, scooters or skateboards as a means of transportation to school do so at their own risk. New York State law requires the use of helmets when riding a bicycle, scooter or in-line skates. Helmets, skates, scooters and skateboards must be stored in students' lockers. Wheelie shoes with built in roller skates are not permitted.

Many students use their bikes not only for transportation to school, but also to ride to other areas within the Village. The Village of Scarsdale has designated bike paths which students are encouraged to use. Village Bicycle Law prohibits riding bicycles on sidewalks within the business areas of the Village proper, on Garth Road, or in the Heathcote business area. This law is designed to protect pedestrians, particularly the elderly, and should be strictly adhered to by all students.

Bus Conduct Guidelines

These guidelines were created to ensure the safety of students on Scarsdale buses. While the school and the transportation office have taken every precaution to ensure student safety, we recognize that the students also have a role to play in order that every student is safe and comfortable on the buses.

General Conduct:

Students are expected to remain seated at all times when the bus is in motion. Any actions that could distract the driver or present a danger to others are not permitted. This includes but is not limited to: throwing items in the bus or out of a window, taking items from others, excessive noise, inappropriate language or gestures, vandalism.

Every student has the right to travel on the bus without being teased, harassed, or intimidated either physically or verbally. Any incidents of bullying should be reported to the driver, a House Counselor, or an Assistant Principal. All complaints are handled so that the behavior stops and there is no fear of retaliation.

Bus Assignments and Passes:

Students may only travel on the bus to which they have been assigned. This includes late buses.

Permission to ride on another bus must be made in writing by a parent to an Assistant Principal at least 24 hours in advance. The school does not give permission for play dates, group projects, and other childcare related reasons not deemed to be an emergency.

Students should carry their bus pass with them at all times and be prepared to present it to the driver upon boarding the bus. Students without bus passes will be reported to an assistant principal.

Lost bus passes can be replaced at the main office.

Seating:

While it is a long standing informal tradition that eighth graders sit at the back of the bus, seventh graders in the middle, and sixth graders at the front, it is the final decision of the bus driver and the school personnel where students are to be seated on buses.

Students should expect to sit two to a seat, and three to a seat on rare occasions, if all other seats are filled with two students.

Discipline:

Students who do not follow the rules listed above should expect to be suspended from the bus. Bus suspensions can be for a few days for low level and first time offenses and for a week, a quarter and even an entire school year for serious or repeat offenses. Parents will be informed in writing of any bus suspension that lasts for more than five school days.

ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION

Those families who do not qualify for busing, or choose to drive their students to school, must abide by the published campus traffic patterns. Additional signage is posted for one-way traffic and authorized times for turning on and off various access routes. We strongly encourage the use of car pools and/or dropping students in the Lower Circle to ease the congestion in the Upper Circle. Cars must drop off passengers out of the traffic flow, and always pull as close to the curb as possible when dropping off passengers.

The Lower Center traffic circle is a permanent ONE WAY out (toward Mamaroneck Road) only. DO NOT ENTER SIGNS are posted near and arrows are painted to direct the flow of traffic.

The ONLY WAY traffic will enter the grounds is via the rear entrance off Kelwynne Road. There will be NO ENTRY signs from Mamaroneck Road during drop off and pick-up times: 7:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Please note this restriction covers before school rehearsal drop off times and after school pick up times.

Parents may drop off students at the Lower Circle (former Popham Circle) at the flagpole in the morning. You should then follow the sign and bear right in order to exit onto Mamaroneck Road. If you wish to drop off at the Upper Circle, then you must BEAR RIGHT at the lower Circle and then turn left to go up the hill. Again, please follow the painted arrows. Minibuses ONLY will be allowed to use the upper half of the Lower Circle (the side adjacent to the building) in the afternoon.

The only point for exiting the grounds during the above times is via the Mamaroneck Road exit. Again, cars must turn right onto Mamaroneck Road. Buses only will be permitted to turn left. No cars will be allowed to exit at the top of the Upper Circle. That point is designated as a "Staff Only Entrance" and will be blocked off during the designated times listed above.

The Village will be posting "One Way" signs on Kelwynne Road during the designated hours so that traffic cannot exit via Kelwynne Road. "No Parking" signs have also been added on Leatherstocking Rd.

We urge you to have your child take the bus. We urge you to cooperate with these policies and ask you to follow the traffic flow pattern that has been established for the safety of our students, staff, parents and visitors. There is a limited amount of visitor parking available behind the Choice building at the top of the hill and additional parking located near the tennis courts.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Daily attendance in all classes and homeroom is essential to academic success. It also represents each student's most basic responsibility as a member of the Scarsdale school community. Therefore, every student is to attend all classes, unless legitimately absent from school. The school will identify patterns of absence, tardiness and early departures from school, and, as appropriate, intervene to encourage student attendance and discourage unexcused absences.

Classifying Absences

- 1) Excused and Unexcused Absences. Student absences, late arrivals, and early departures shall be either excused or unexcused.
 - a. Excused absences include:
 - Illness
 - Illness or death in the family
 - Religious observance or religious instruction
 - Required appearance in court
 - Remedial health treatment
 - b. Unexcused absences include:
 - Family vacations, visits and events
 - Camp attendance
 - Lessons (tutoring, sports, music, dance, etc.)
 - Oversleeping
 - Car trouble

The building principal shall have discretion to designate an absence, late arrival or early departure as "excused." If the cause of the absence is not among those enumerated in part (b), or if he or she determines that the absence was unavoidable and/or otherwise not the fault of the student or the student's parent(s)/legal guardian(s).

Absence Procedures

- The parent or guardian must notify the student's house office before 9 a.m. and preferably before 8 a.m. Parents are encouraged leave messages at any time on the House voice mail.
- It is the parent or guardian's responsibility to notify the school office each morning of the absence and provide a written excuse for each absence.
- Students will be responsible to meet with his or her teacher(s) immediately upon returning to school and to establish a make-up schedule for work missed during an absence. Teachers will bring students up to date on missed classroom work upon their return to school; however, after an absence of three days, parents should arrange to pick up assignments at the House Counselor's office.
- Students who are absent from school may not participate in nor be a spectator at any school sponsored athletic event or extra curricular activity.

Tardiness Procedures

- Students who will be late to school must have a parent or guardian call the House office in advance or must have a note written by a parent with them when they arrive at school.
- Regardless of the circumstances, all latecomers must report to the House office immediately upon arrival for sign-in purposes.
- On the day of a lateness it is the student's responsibility to meet with teachers to establish a schedule to complete work missed.

EARLY DISMISSAL

Requests for early dismissal must be presented in writing to the House Counselor's office **the morning of the early dismissal, at the latest.** Early dismissal requests should be for reasons consistent with those for absence as recognized by the Board of Education. Whenever possible, appointments should be scheduled outside of school hours.

As a safety precaution, students must be picked up in person at the House office by the parent or guardian.

INCLEMENT WEATHER INFORMATION

The decision to close school or to delay opening because of severe weather conditions is announced on radio stations WFAS (1230 AM or 103.9 FM), WHUD (100.7 FM), WCBS (880 AM) and WOR (710 AM) at 7:20 a.m. or on Cable channels 12 and 77 at 7 a.m. or it will be posted on the Scarsdale Middle School PTA website, scarsdalemspta.org. There will be an internet message and phone call sent to all parents before 7 a.m.

EARLY DISMISSAL DUE TO WEATHER CONDITIONS

The decision to close school early will be made by the Superintendent by 10:00 a.m. The Middle School will dismiss students beginning at 11:30 a.m. with buses departing at 11:45 a.m. Parents should make provisions in advance and inform your child of the plan he or she is to follow if school is dismissed early. Given the volume of phone calls we receive, we may not be able to get messages to all students. If you arrive in person to transport your child home earlier than dismissal time, please report to the House office to sign out your child with the House secretary.

Since most students use bus transportation, only students who are eligible for busing can ride the school district's buses. Students who normally take private buses must take those buses home as usual. We will notify the private bus companies of an early dismissal.

On days when the weather forecast is uncertain, you should listen to local radio station WFAS (1230 AM or 103.9 FM) and WHUD (100.7 FM). The local cable channels will also carry notification of any early dismissals and check the listserv and PTA website. The district will send an automated phone message and internet message before 7 a.m.

TELEPHONES

A public pay phone is available outside the gym entrance. There is a phone available for students to use during lunch periods and after school.

CELL PHONE POLICY

It is the policy of the Middle School to permit students to have cell phones at school. We recognize that many middle school students and their families use cell phones as the primary tool for communication both before and after school hours. During the academic day however (including lunch period), cell phones and other electronic devices are distractive nuisances that interfere with instruction. Any student found using a cell phone or other device during the academic day would have the device confiscated. All confiscated items will be turned in to the student's House office. Students can collect them at the end of the school day. In an emergency students are instructed not to use their cell phones. Please do not call them during an emergency.

In addition, students are prohibited to use a cell phone or any electronic device to record, store, or transmit any information or images that infringe upon the rights of others, or are disruptive, or are otherwise inappropriate in an educational setting.

LUNCH

There is a 38-minute lunch period. Students may bring their own lunches to school or purchase items such as sandwiches, milk, juice, and ice cream. Menus are posted in homerooms and online. There is also a debit account system. Students and parents receive information about this system in a summer mailing from district food services. Forgotten lunches should be brought to the House Counselor's office.

LOST BOOKS

If a student loses a textbook or library book, he/she must pay the replacement cost of the book. Report cards will not be distributed until the fee is paid.

CODE OF CONDUCT

The Board of Education has outlined the rights and responsibilities of students attending Scarsdale Schools (Board Policy 5300.15). Scarsdale Middle School maintains a firm but compassionate discipline policy. Understanding that occasional disciplinary problems may arise, the school addresses each case individually and parents are informed in case of serious, flagrant or repeated violations of school rules. The range of consequences, which may be imposed for violations of school rules, are consistent with those specified by Board policy.

Prohibited Student Conduct

All students will conduct themselves appropriately and civilly, with due regard for the rights and welfare of all others in the school community, as well as for its facilities and equipment.

Effective, contributing adulthood depends on a sense of values and on self-discipline. Adults should guide and encourage students to learn to make responsible decisions for themselves. Discipline should be used only as needed, with emphasis on helping the student acquire positive values and a sense of self-discipline.

Students are subject to discipline up to and including suspension or exclusion from school when they engage in conduct that is disorderly, insubordinate, disruptive, violent, or that endangers the safety, morals, health, or welfare of others. They are subject to the same range of penalties when they engage in academic misconduct.

Discipline for violations of Board policy and/or District regulations will occur in the student's home school, regardless of the site of the violation. Nonetheless, the student may still be responsible to any other school where a violation has occurred, or to community authorities. The individual student and/or the parent or guardian(s) shall be responsible for the

financial costs of any injury to another individual in a District school or of damage or destruction to any building or grounds of the district.

Dress Code

Responsibility for dress and general appearance rests with individual students and parents. However, the District shall adopt standards for health and safety, and attire, which may not obstruct others' rights, advocate illegal action, or interfere with learning. A student may be required to remove, cover, or replace offending dress. Refusal to comply with the dress code may result in discipline up to and including suspension from school.

Students are expected to dress modestly. Clothing that is revealing or distracting is unacceptable, in particular students should be aware of the following guidelines:

Girls: No tops with spaghetti straps or halter-tops with bare backs. No bare midriffs.

Boys: Pants must be worn so they cover underwear. No cut-off or muscle shirts.

Both: Shoes must be worn at all times (Health Department requirement)

Realizing that fashion trends change, the administration reserves the right to revise these expectations following the guidelines in the Code of Conduct.

Definition of Penalties

A student found to have violated the Code of Conduct may be subject to the following penalties, alone or in combination. Penalties may be imposed by the individuals noted, subject to due process as defined in the code and law.

1. Oral warning	Any staff member
2. Written warning	Any professional staff member
3. Written notice to parent	Any professional staff member
4. Detention	Teacher and/or Administrator
5. Transportation suspension	Teacher, Administrator, Transportation Director
6. Athletic suspension	Coach, Administrator, Superintendent
7. Social/extracurricular activity suspension	Activity director, Administrator, Superintendent
8. Suspension of other privileges	Administrator, Superintendent
9. Restitution	Administrator, Superintendent
10. Removal from classroom	Teacher, Administrator
11. In-school suspension	Administrators and teachers
12. Short-term out-of-school suspension*	Principal, Superintendent, Board
13. Long-term out-of-school suspension*	Superintendent, Board
14. Permanent suspension from school	Superintendent, Board
15. Police or court referral	Principal, Superintendent

Short term = Five Days or less.

Long Term = More than Five days

A complete copy of the Code of Conduct is available from our Principal and on the district website www.scarsdaleschools.org.

INTERNET AND DISTRICT NETWORK USAGE

REGULATIONS FOR ACCEPTABLE USE OF THE INTERNET AND DISTRICT NETWORK

Computer users agree to follow District Acceptable Use Regulations in all of their work with computers in the Scarsdale Public Schools.

I. Copyright laws

Software is protected by copyright laws; therefore users will not make unauthorized copies of software found on school computers, either by copying them onto diskettes or into other computers through electronic mail or bulletin boards; and they will not give, lend, or sell copies of software to others unless they have the written permission of the copyright owner or the original software is clearly identified as "shareware" or in the public domain. Attributions of authorship will follow the same copyright rules for material obtained via the network. Users will not install software on the network or individual computers; only the network administration can authorize installation of software.

II. Rules of Use

Users agree to abide by the following rules of use:

1. Use of the network must be in support of education and research.
2. Network accounts are to be used only by the authorized owner of the account.
3. Users shall not seek to learn or change or share other users' passwords, modify other users' files or data, or misrepresent other users of the network.
4. Users shall not reveal any identifying personal information such as their name or email address to others.
5. No user of the network intentionally shall serve to disrupt the use of the network of others; hardware or software shall not be destroyed, modified, damaged or abused in any way. For example, selected settings on a piece of software shall not be changed. Such vandalism is considered a crime under state and federal law.
6. Malicious use of the network to develop programs that harass other users or infiltrate a computer or computer system and/or damage the software components of a computer or computing system (for example, purposely introducing a virus) are prohibited,
7. Loading, transmitting, or intentional receipt of hate mail, harassment, and other antisocial behaviors are prohibited on the network.
8. Use of the network to access or process pornographic material, inappropriate text files, illegal activities, or files dangerous to the integrity of the local area network are prohibited.
9. Exemplary behavior is expected on "virtual" field trips (for example, a student should not post inappropriate messages when visiting another site) as users are representing this school district when a visitor to such locations on the Internet.
10. Users shall not attempt to change wiring or physical components of the network.

III. Policy

Scarsdale Union Free School District reserves the right to:

- 1) Log internet use and to monitor fileserver utilization by users;
- 2) Remove a user account on the network to prevent further unauthorized activity

IV. Violations

Violators of the acceptable use regulations described above will be dealt with seriously. Violators risk losing computer privileges on a temporary or permanent basis, suffering disciplinary action and/or financial penalties, and facing possible prosecution for violations of local, state and federal laws.

ADMINISTRATION

Michael McDermott is the Principal of Scarsdale Middle School; **Larry Chatzinoff** and **Rochelle Hauge** are the Assistant Principals.

Middle School students are assigned to one of four Houses – Butler, Cooper, Fountain, or Popham. Seventh and eighth graders may elect to be in the alternative program, CHOICE. The student population in the four Houses is balanced according to ability levels, gender, and a distribution from the five elementary schools.

Within the Houses, faculty members in the basic subjects are organized into academic teams. There is a sixth, seventh and eighth grade team in each of the four houses.

CHOICE, which stands for Cooperative House of Independent Community Education, is an alternative program in the Middle School for seventh and eighth graders. A team of three teachers, working with approximately 40-50 students, teach math, science and humanities.

PROGRAM

FACULTY

Each teacher team consists of faculty members in English, social studies, mathematics, science, and resource room.

The Middle School faculty has specialists in foreign language (Grades 7/8 only), computers, speech, related arts (art, family and consumers science, and technology), health, music, and physical education.

Department heads, responsible for establishing the objectives and priorities of the department, and for keeping abreast of new and challenging curricular developments, are: **Sarah Whittington**, Foreign Language; **Leonard Tallevi**, Social Studies; **Dominic Castiello**, Math; **David Wixted**, English; **Michael Katz**, Science; **Bob Keith**, Health and Physical Education; **Caran Pullen**, Special Education, **Linda Fisher**, Related Arts, **Connie Shelengian**, Music. In CHOICE, the Teacher-in-Charge is **Cindy Seidel**.

COURSES

Every sixth, seventh, and eighth grader is required to take English, social studies, mathematics, and science. Beginning in grade seven, a student may elect to take **French** or **Spanish**, which meets five days a week. Alternatively a two-day-a-week course in **Language and Culture** is offered. Students who do not elect to take a foreign language will receive local effort support services through the TAS program and their teachers. Programs in health, computers, and group guidance are also offered as part of the curriculum in grades six through eight. Public speaking is offered in 7th and 8th grade.

In CHOICE, in addition to the requisite core curriculum, students help create and choose elective mini-courses. A flexible schedule allows for special all-student projects and trips.

All students take music and physical education every year. For physical education classes, students are required to provide and wear shorts, shirt, sweat suit, socks and sneakers.

All students participate in the Middle School music program all three years. All sixth, seventh and eighth graders participate in a performing group or take Exploring Music.

Students who play band or orchestral instruments may join these groups to improve instrumental techniques and to participate in ensemble playing. Performance opportunities include concerts and assemblies. These groups have one required 7:30 a.m. rehearsal each week. In addition, there are after-school jazz bands, one District-wide (grades four through six) and one for grades seven and eight.

Chorus is open to all students; auditions are not required (except in select groups). A variety of music is sung, including pop, rock, folk, and classical.

Evening performances for all ensembles are given during the year and concert participation is a requirement of these courses.

ACCELERATED COURSES

The Regents Action Plan requires middle schools to offer accelerated courses in two subjects. At Scarsdale Middle School these subjects are mathematics and foreign language.

Beginning in grade seven students are recommended to take a two-year sequence in either Spanish or French. Successful completion of the two-year sequence will earn the student one high school credit, with the final grade appearing on the student's high school transcript. Students who need Team Academic Support (TAS) support are recommended for an every-other day **Language and Culture** program for which a unit of study rather than a unit of credit is given. These students begin their regular foreign language study in the high school

The goal of the newly revised math curriculum is to challenge all students to reach their full potential in mathematics and to give students who are able, ready, and interested access to advanced math in high school. Compared to other schools, Scarsdale Middle School is able to offer an accelerated math program to a majority (approximately 75 percent) of our students.

At the end of the sixth grade, the advanced math program will be recommended for those students who demonstrate an aptitude and readiness to work independently and apply abstract math concepts to new problem solving situations. There are various criteria for recommendation, the most important of which is satisfactory performance in the course. Students who are not initially recommended for the advanced math program are reviewed again in seventh and eighth grades and may then be reconsidered for placement.

As with foreign language, students who successfully complete the advance math program will have their final grade placed on their high school transcript and will earn one high school credit.

LIBRARY

The Middle School Library is open daily to students during and after school hours. Library hours are Monday, 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., and Tuesday through Friday 8 am to 3:30 pm. The librarians and teachers' aides are always available to help students select leisure time reading and independent reference materials.

Incoming sixth graders and new students are offered a library orientation at the beginning of the year. In partnership with teachers, the library provides on-going instruction in library skills. Students are taught how to find and use electronic, as well as print, resources. Individual guidance is provided in the use of Infotrac, and electronic index to current magazine articles, as well as in the use of the Internet. In addition to a substantial collection of fiction and

non-fiction books, the library maintains an extensive vertical file, and collections of CDs, videotapes, and documentary photos. The library is also the site of the Ron Cardinale Video Conference Center.

FIELD TRIPS

Field trips are carefully and thoughtfully planned in terms of learning experiences and enjoyment. From time to time, teachers may schedule field trips to augment a classroom project or unit of study. A parent or legal guardian must sign permission slips. Transportation is generally arranged by bus. Parents will be asked to pay a small fee for each trip in addition to any admission costs. Occasionally, when overnight trips are arranged, a fund-raising project is permitted.

COMMUNICATION BETWEEN SCHOOL AND HOME

PARENT-TEACHER COMMUNICATION

The Middle School works to maintain an open dialogue with parents. Administration, House Counselors and teachers are always available to meet with parents. When there is a concern or question about a specific subject, parents should contact the individual teacher through the House office. Concerns or questions about a student's overall progress or behavior can be addressed by speaking to the House Counselor or, in consultation with the House Counselor, by requesting a meeting with the entire teacher team.

THE FIRST QUARTER

Whether it is for 6th, 7th, or 8th grade, the first quarter of a new school means a transition to a new team of teachers as well as a new set of academic challenges and opportunities. For this reason, there are several important events in the first quarter designed to help students and parents with this transition. About two or three weeks into the first quarter, parents are invited to a grade-level Open House to meet their child's teachers and to become acquainted with the curricular goals. In the middle of October, all students will receive a mid-marking period report that focuses on their transition to the new team. At the teacher's discretion, a more detailed report on performance in an individual subject may be attached.

At the conclusion of the first quarter, we reserve days after school for individual teacher conferences. These conferences are not required. Many parents choose only to meet with teachers if their child is having difficulty in a particular subject. Please consult the Middle School calendar or call the house office for those specific dates. Appointments for individual conferences after school are at the end of the first quarter. Check e-mail messages and web-site for the sign up forms.

REPORT CARDS AND GRADING

All students receive reports cards four times a year at approximately ten-week intervals. Letter grades are given. As mentioned above, all students receive a mid-marking period report in the first quarter. In the second, third, and fourth quarters, at the discretion of the teacher, a mid-marking period report in an individual subject may be mailed home to commend work or make the parents aware of academic difficulty. In **Art, Speech, Family and Consumer Sciences, and Technology**, final grades are given at the end of a quarter.

At the discretion of the principal, students who fail an academic subject for the year may be required to attend summer school and successfully pass the course(s) in order to be promoted to the next grade.

FINAL WEEK

During the last week of school students attend school during the morning only. Seventh and eight graders take final exams, while sixth graders are involved in special activities. A student with an excused absence from a final exam will be given one opportunity to take a make-up exam. Otherwise, no make-up exam will be given and the final grade will be lowered by a half grade. To preserve the integrity of final exams, a student may not take an exam before the designated date and time.

SPECIAL SERVICES

HEALTH SERVICES

The Health Services Program fulfills the New York State mandate for physical examinations, immunizations, first aid, and the various screening procedures. The New York Department of Education requires that all students entering seventh grade have a health examination.

There are two full-time registered nurses assigned to the Middle School: **Judy Whelan** and **Marcia Koff**. If a student becomes ill during school, parents will be notified and the student should be picked up at the nurses' office by a parent or designated adult.

PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES

Two psychologists are available to consult on individual academic, social and emotional problems. At the recommendation of a House counselor, the psychologist may administer an individual or group test. This testing is arranged after consultation with parents; the results are available to parents.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

The Middle School has a parallel curriculum program, a learning resource center program, self-contained classes and team academic support (TAS). Each House has a Learning Disabilities specialist. Students are assigned to these programs after consultation with teachers and the House Counselor and based on demonstrated need.

Parents may contact the House Counselor if they believe their child should be in a TAS program. Students participating in this program do not miss any academic classes. Sixth graders are scheduled during the reading period in order to avoid conflicts with academic classes. Seventh and eighth graders not taking a foreign language who need skills help will be scheduled during language instruction time; however, students taking **Language and Culture** can also be scheduled and seen by the academic teachers for their skills development. Teachers are available for extra help on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays (Fridays at the teacher's discretion).

YOUTH OUTREACH COUNSELORS

The Youth Outreach Counselors are part of the Scarsdale Community Youth Services Project, a joint partnership of Scarsdale Schools, Scarsdale Village and Scarsdale-Edgemont Family Counseling. Recognizing that the onset of adolescence can be both a crisis and a challenge, the purpose of the project is to assist young people and their families during this time. Youth Outreach Counselors are available during and after school hours. Some of the special programs of the project are support groups for parents and a transition group for sixth graders. Parents who do not wish their children to participate in Youth Outreach Program should advise the school.

OTHER SERVICES

The Middle School employs two teachers of English as a Second Language and a full-time speech therapist. The House Counselor makes referrals in these areas.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

ASSEMBLIES

Assemblies appropriate to age level and interests are scheduled throughout the year by the **Cultural Arts Committee** and Middle School staff. These may be school-wide assemblies or small group programs, such as visiting authors, within individual Houses.

DRAMA

There is an annual drama production in which seventh and eighth graders may participate.

PUBLICATIONS

The Middle School has several annual publications that are produced by students with the assistance of staff advisors and/or PTA liaisons. **Nonpareil** is the school yearbook that is offered for sale to all students. Copies of the video yearbook, produced by the eighth grade, are available for purchase at the 8th grade pool party.

Under the sponsorship of the PTA, the Literary Magazine, **A Look Inside**, is published yearly as well as a student newspaper.

Announcements will be made in homeroom and online regarding opportunities to work on these publications.

MODIFIED SPORTS PROGRAMS

The Middle School offers a Modified Sports program for eighth graders (and in some sports, seventh graders). Modified Sports follow a “no-cut” policy to encourage all students to participate. Requirements for participation, including requirements for physical exams, are included in a Modified Sports Handbook, available from the Coordinator of Modified Sports (721-2625) or from Mike Menna, Director of Sports for the District (721-2517). Running the Modified Sports is Kevin Romer and below is what is offered by season:

Fall Offerings

Girls Volleyball
Girls Field Hockey
Cross Country/Track (co-ed)

Winter Offerings

Wrestling
Cheerleading

Spring Offerings

Boys Lacrosse
Girls Lacrosse
Track & field (co-ed)

STUDENT ORGANIZATION (S.O.)

The Student Organization meets on a regular basis throughout the year with the faculty advisors Steve Rambone and Alex Campbell. Officers are elected by a school-wide vote after campaigns are conducted. Representatives from all grades are elected in homeroom voting in the fall. The S.O. sponsors school dances, talent shows, and other student activities. Some of these events are used to raise funds for various charities.

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

There are numerous opportunities after school for students to help them build their academic skills, learn a new sport or develop a new hobby. Teachers are available for extra help on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. The library is open every day except Mondays until 3:30. Modified sports are offered all three seasons. In addition, there are a

number of clubs and other activities, some sponsored jointly by the PTA and the Scarsdale Recreation Department, for students whose parents are members of the PTA. For a moderate fee, there will be a variety of courses offered, contingent on student interest, such as keyboarding, babysitting, photography, yoga, hip hop dance, etc.

In addition, Middle School faculty advisors offer additional clubs for students. A partial list includes: Art Club, Green Team, Guitar Club, Debate, Ecology, Math Counts, Science Olympiad, Young Men and Young Women in Leadership, Drop-In Sewing club, Literary Magazine, Student Newspaper and SMS Show Choir.

Our intramural program includes leadership training, fitness, Project Adventure Activities and interpersonal skill development. Students should listen for announcements about this new program and the various activities associated with it.

Please note: Students are welcome to stay after school as long as it is for one of the above listed activities. In those situations, students are supervised by adults. Students are not permitted to stay after school just to “hang out”, and we cannot be responsible for students who congregate in unsupervised areas. Students who do not adhere to these guidelines may be barred from staying after school and may face disciplinary consequences. Any questions relating to After School Activities should be directed to Bob Keith at 721-2629.

Y.E.S.

All students who are fourteen years and older and who are interested in part-time work are invited to register at the Youth Employment “Service (Y.E.S.) located at the High School. Parents may call the Y.E.S. office at 723-7343 to register as an employer and post any jobs available in their homes or offices, which could be filled by a Scarsdale teenager. The office is open Monday through Thursday 9:30 am to 3 pm and Fridays until 2 pm. Messages may be left when the office is closed. The service is also on-line at <http://scarsdale.ny.hs-ses.com>

KIDS’ B.A.S.E.

Kids’ B.A.S.E. offers before and after-school programs for sixth graders. For further information call 472-5409.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Dr. Michael McGill is the Scarsdale Superintendent of Schools and **Barbara Kemp** is the President of the Board of Education.

Board of Education meetings, held on the first and third Monday of the month at the High School in Room 170-172, are always open to the community with the opportunity for those present to raise and discuss issues with the Superintendent and members of the School Board. The Board of Education and the Superintendent may be reached at 721-2400 or boardofed@scarsdaleschools.org.

PT COUNCIL

The Scarsdale Council of PTA’s is the coordinating body for the seven Scarsdale PTA units. Its officers and Board provide a forum for communication and exchange of information about the Scarsdale Schools and their PTAs. Three times a year, PT Council sponsors programs of interest to the entire school community. Parents, teachers, administrators, and

interested community members are always welcome. The PT Council President is Julie Baker at 722-1557.

COMPACT FOR LEARNING

New York State has mandated a process of shared decision-making between parents and school. The Compact Committee consists of four parents (PTA President and three other parent representatives), four faculty members, and two administrators (Principal and Assistant Principal). The Compact Committee for 2009-2010 is as follows:

PTA President	Amy Scharf	
Parent Representatives	Amy Scharf	
	Gayle K Hutcher	
Principal	Michael McDermott	721-2600
Assistant Principal	Larry Chatzinoff	721-2600
Faculty	TBA	721-2600
Faculty	TBA	721-2600
Faculty	TBA	721-2600
Faculty	TBA	721-2600

THE SCARSDALE TASK FORCE ON DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

The Task Force strives to educate youth and adults regarding drugs and alcohol, to help people develop drug-free attitudes and habits, and to offer resources to those whose lives are affected by drug and/or alcohol dependency. Membership in the Task Force includes concerned individuals and representatives of the schools, the Village, religious institutions, and local and civic organizations. For more information, contact **Geralyn Della Cava** at Geralyndellacava@aol.com or **Robin Gottlieb** at Gottgarden@aol.com

NEIGHBORHOOD ATHLETIC ASSOCIATIONS

The neighborhood athletic associations are run by parents and encourage participation of children in well-supervised athletic programs. Skills and fundamentals of sportsmanship and team play are stressed. Parents are encouraged to assist as coaches or to participate as spectators for soccer or football (fall), basketball (winter) and baseball, softball and/or tennis (spring). Neighborhood chairpersons are as follows:

Edgewood	Sam Bryant	swbiv@aol.com
Fox Meadow	Chris Riback	Chris.riback@citi.com
Greenacres	Debbie Pekarek	dpedarek@verizon.net
Heathcote	Jon Libman	jlibman@mac.com
Quaker Ridge	Steve Millman	Smill37@gmail.com
IHM	Peter McNamara	tankmcmamara@optonline.net

PTA ACTIVITIES

After-School Programs are offered throughout the school year and are determined by student interest.

The **Book Fair** provides students and parents with a wide selection of new books. This year's fairs will be held in October and June.

Community Service provides encouragement and opportunity for students to give meaningful service to the community.

The **Cultural Arts Committee** works with faculty representatives to provide enrichment activities and programs for school-wide assemblies as well as smaller student groups.

Clothing Sales help foster a sense of school spirit and pride.

The **Legislation Committee** informs the PTA membership on a continuing basis of issues before national, state and local legislatures, which affect educational policy.

Library Volunteers work directly with the librarians, performing many services, which enable the school library to function more efficiently.

The Literary Magazine, *A Look Inside*, is a compilation of student writings that is published in late spring.

The Multi-Cultural Families Committee encourages cross-cultural understanding through social events and discussions, which are open to all families who want to learn about and share other cultures and traditions. It also seeks to extend a special welcome to foreign families whose children are entering the Middle School, facilitating their transition to American language and culture.

Nutrition Committee will interface with administrators, food service workers and parents to evaluate and plan nutritious/healthy and appealing choices of food, beverages and snacks in the House cafeterias.

PTA Programs provide opportunities for parents to meet with administrators and staff members. Speakers present exciting highlights of the Middle School curriculum as well as discuss areas of importance and concern to parents of this age group.

Rec Nights are informal Friday activity nights scheduled periodically by grade level and chaperoned by parent volunteers. Rec Nights are planned in conjunction with the Village Recreation Department and are held at the Middle School.

The **School Store** sells a wide variety of school supplies. The School Store is run by the PTA assisted by a Middle School teacher. Students may purchase school supplies at the school store.

Sports Smart, scheduled each year on a Saturday in early September from 10 am to 12 pm at the Middle School, is an opportunity to buy used sporting equipment.

The Student Directory is provided free of charge to all current PTA members. Additional directories may be purchased by current members if they are available.

The Student Newspaper is published by students three times a year.

Scarsdale Middle School Staff 2009-2010**SCARSDALE MIDDLE SCHOOL
Teaching Assignments 2009-10****GRADE 6**

SUBJECT	BUTLER	COOPER	POPHAM	FOUNTAIN
English	J. Hilpert	J. Gerstenblatt	J. Fitzgerald	L. Bryan
Science	F. Elfenbein	J. Williams	C. Browne-Sibrizzi	C. Gilliland
Math	E. Arfsten	A. Nista	R. Saya	M. Greco
Social Studies	E. Bitterman	J.M. Castiello	K. Kraft	A. Nichols

GRADE 7

English	B. Fisher	D. DelBalzo	J. Andreski	P. Fox
Science	L. Ciccone	D. Meiselman	K. Raff	J. Gilbert
Math	S. Walsh	J. Sarafin	H. Kaplan	J. Harris
Social Studies	S. Goodman	M. Troy	M. Lahey	L. Tallevi

GRADE 8

English	T. Serafin	D. Wixted	K. Connon	M. Ross
Science	M. Katz	M. Nicolson	H. Flisser	J. Gandelman
Math	J. Overbey	H. Casey	S. Weiss	D. Castiello
Social Studies	N. Collins	J. Milliken	S. Scharf	E. Wixted

House Counselors

	S. Cass	M. Najac	D. Paradiso	D. Conley
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FOREIGN LANGUAGE

French/Spanish	S. Whittington	Spanish	J. Toscano	M. Millard
French	S. Chan	Spanish	C. Mirville	A. Barron
D. Lipton-ESL	M. Gonzalez ESL (P/T)	Spanish	S. Jackson (leave repl.)	J. Adler

CHOICE

C. Seidel	R. Colantuono	M. Rothman		
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		LIBRARY
PUBLIC SPEAKING	A. Campbell	S. Waskow
COMPUTER PROGRAM		E. Waltzman
K. Holvig		
D. Rose		
RELATED ARTS GRADES 6, 7 & 8		
L. Fisher	Art	
M. Freedman-Carmen	Art	J. Whelan
D. Cassano	Art	M. Koff
M. Ball	Family and Consumer Science	PSYCHOLOGIST
D. Rivellini	Family and Consumer Science	
A. Verboys	Technology	
S. Rambone	Technology	
J. Tuttle	Technology	E. Cohen
PHYSICAL EDUCATION GRADES 6, 7 & 8		A. Tripodi
PHYSICAL EDUCATION GRADES 6, 7 & 8		OUTREACH WORKERS
C. Orlandi	R. Keith	T. Nelson
C. Berger	B. Foltman	E. Vallario
M. Zeiler	K. Roemer	A. Weisfeld (p/t)
HEALTH GRADES 6, 7 & 8		SUPPORT SERVICES
C. Scherzer (7)	A. Saltzman (Friedman) (6)	B. Lorie
L. Messina (leave repl.) (8)		
MUSIC GRADES 6, 7 & 8		
N. Lieto	J. Slotwinski	C. Shelengian
C. Cuk	J. Voss	J. Campanello

SKILLS

D. Rosamond	Special Class 6/7/8
E. Steckler	Special Class/Learning Resource Room
D. Golden	Parallel Curriculum Classroom 8
R. Lund	Parallel Curriculum Classroom 6
C. Pierro	Parallel Curriculum Classroom Science
J. Fried	Parallel Curriculum Classroom 7
J. Conlin	Learning Resource Room (F)
C. Pullen	Learning Resource Room (B)
J. Strobel	Learning Resource Room (P)
Y. Buckler	Learning Resource Room (C)