

## The Lotus Lowdown

January 15, 2023



Maria Francisco, Principal

### **Semester 2 Elective selection: January 12-16, 2023**

On January 12, 2023, Elective teachers presented to all students a review of the electives that will be offered for Semester 2. This helps students make informed decisions when selecting their electives. Selection forms were emailed to parents on Thursday, January 12, 2023. Please keep in mind that classes are capped, therefore selections will be accommodated on a first come first serve basis. It is extremely important that all selection forms are completed and submitted by 1/16/23 so that we can schedule students in time for the start of semester 2. To access the selection form and course book, click on the following link: [Semester 2 Course Selection Form](#)

### **Math Midterms:**

The Math Midterm will take place on 1/30 and 1/31 during student's scheduled Math Classes. The Midterm will cover the first half of the year's concepts and standards. Midterms count for 5% of a student's Final Math Grade. Teachers will review concepts with students in preparation for the Midterm. Should you have any questions, please contact Mr. Gazzillo @ [rgazzillo@montclair.k12.nj.us](mailto:rgazzillo@montclair.k12.nj.us)

### **Montclair Recreation Basketball for Grades 6-8**

Montclair is running a Recreation Basketball program for Middle School Students. I wanted to pass along the info:

*The Montclair Rec Basketball Program is designed for participants in grades 6th-8th to have fun playing the game of basketball. Volunteer coaches are greatly needed to run the program.*

*Teams/coaches will be formed by the recreation department for league play. Teams will play a league schedule, generally on Friday evenings (Practices Wednesdays) at Montclair high school between 7 pm-9 pm. Participants will be issued game jerseys. Participants must wear sneakers, shorts, or sweatpants. Please bring your own water bottle or sports drink. (non-glass). The cost of the program is \$75 but assistance is available.*

*To register, head to the link to create an account through Community Pass*

<https://register.capturepoint.com/reg/login.cfm?cuBJBfnClZwtomy3Erh3n%2B7arxNPXoxk9V2eh8RP2faSwM5QkImp%2FfA%3D>

*For more information contact the Recreation Office 8:30 am-4:30 pm during business hours Monday-Friday. They can be contacted at 973-509-4915.*

## **Dance: Ms. Lorusso**

### **6th grade elective- Cultural Dance**

Students wrote briefly about their customs, traditions, and habits then created a movement(s) that embodies what they wrote.

Students went into groups and shared their movement and explained why they chose that movement. Together students created a dance using what they shared and performed for the class.

6th, 7th, and 8th grade electives and dance companies are creating and learning movement inspired by Black History and Black Lives Matter. Students are using events, stories, poems, songs, and quotes to explore and create movement. Students are preparing for an assembly at the end of February to showcase their dances.

### **Nurse Kaplan Updates:**

Remaining healthy during the winter. These simple reminders might help to get through the day, the week and stay healthy at school.

- Try to eat breakfast every day.
- Carry milk, fruit, or a drink that is 100% fruit juice.
- Have a grab-and-go snack/meal for timesaving.
- Participate in the school lunch program.
- Please DO NOT share your food at school.

Eat – Play – Learn

### **Student Council Meeting: (Ms. Girardi)**

The Student Council will meet on **Tuesday, January 17**. The meeting will run from **3:15 - 4:00 pm**.

Please note that we will be **changing our meeting location to Room 111** (Ms. Dunn's room) on the first floor. Any questions please feel free to reach out to Mrs. Girardi @ [agirardi@montclair.k12.nj.us](mailto:agirardi@montclair.k12.nj.us)

### **Anderson Park Short Story Contest**

Calling All Students!

There is an amazing opportunity for you all! The Anderson Park Short Story Contest allows you to highlight your creative writing skills. Please see the information below.

#### **Anderson Park Short Story Contest**

##### **CONTEST REQUIREMENTS:**

**Content:** Anderson Park must feature in the story, but the writing may be in any genre.

**Length:** 500-2,500 words.

**Style:** The same guidelines in subject matter and language that would apply in school also apply to these entries.

**Format:** Typed and double-spaced, with numbered pages. The author's name, email address, phone number, grade and school should be on every page. Stories should be in .doc or .docx format.

**Submissions:** Entries must be emailed by midnight on **March 8, 2023** to [andersonparkstory@gmail.com](mailto:andersonparkstory@gmail.com). Submissions will be acknowledged within 3 days.

Let your creative abilities shine!  
[Anderson Park Flyer](#)

## **National Junior Honor Society**

NJHS Eligibility criteria:

The National Junior Honor Society was founded in 1929. The qualities of scholarship, leadership, citizenship and service apply to the selection process for this prestigious organization. To be considered for induction, 7th and 8th grade students need to have a 92.5 average in all subject areas for the first 3 marking periods. There are additional requirements for consideration as well. Please review the PPT below for further information. Should you have any questions, please email our NJHS advisor, Ms. Lanza at [jlanza@montclair.k12.nj.us](mailto:jlanza@montclair.k12.nj.us).

[National Junior Honor Society Requirements](#)

## **NJHS students to begin peer tutoring:**

As a means of providing community service opportunities for our students who are interested in becoming National Junior Honor Society members and for our current NJHS members, we will start peer tutoring on 1/19/23. In February, peer tutoring will take place on 2/9/23 and on 2/16/23. March tutoring dates will be forthcoming. If you would like for your child to **become** a peer tutor, please have your child speak with Ms. Lanza to sign up. This is only for students who are already NJHS members or currently meet the criteria for induction. (described above)

If you would like to sign your child up **for** peer tutoring please fill out the google form below.

[Click here to sign your child up to receive peer tutoring](#)

## **6th Grade:**

Students should bring their own water bottles and headphones to school regularly.  
Students should also charge their Chromebooks every night.

## **Science:**

Right now, in Science, 6<sup>th</sup> grade students are learning about atomic structure and are learning how to make Bohr Models of atoms. In doing so, we're learning about different elements, and a little bit about how the Periodic Table works. Students will revisit this topic in more detail in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Pictures: [Ms. Hittel's Students Making Bohr Models](#)

## **7th Grade:**

End of Marking Period 2:

Students must turn in all late work by Friday, January 27 for the 4 core classes.

7<sup>th</sup> Grade Acknowledgement of the Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on Friday, the 13<sup>th</sup>, the 7<sup>th</sup> Grade and other Renaissance Staff (including Ms. Ayscue and Ms. Gulledge) presented the life and legacy of Dr. King, including music, quotes, readings and poetry from other historic figures. Following the presentation, students watched a documentary on the civil rights movement, titled A Time for Justice.

## **Social Studies:**

Classes are beginning the study of English colonization of America. Homework this week is to complete definitions (due Tuesday, 1/17 - also a 4-way split day because there is no school on Monday, 1/16). The homework due Monday/Tuesday, January 23-24 is to examine the evidence surrounding the lost colony of Roanoke and provide their analysis. The assignment is posted at the end of the document in Google Classroom.

## **Language Arts:**

We have a Homophones Test next week. We are also starting The Frederick Douglass Narratives. In Writing, the book is due on Jan. 23. The Murder Mystery will now begin!

## **Science:**

Students continue their work on circuits. All classes have started the "Resistance Isn't Useless" lab and will begin to wrap up their projects next week.

## **A Message for 8th Grade students from Montclair High School**

Please join us on Tuesday, January 17, 2023 for an information session regarding Career and Technical Education opportunities for current 8th and 9th grade Montclair Public School students. Essex County Schools of Technology representatives will visit Montclair High School on Tuesday, January 17, 2023, at 6:30pm in the LGI to share information with you regarding CTE and academic course offerings that may be of interest to you. The presentation is approximately 45 minutes long and will cover shared time/full time program options, career and technical areas and the application process. There will be a brief question and answer period at the end of the presentation. We look forward to seeing you there!

Kind regards,

Sophia Kenny

Director of School Counseling [skenny@montclair.k12.nj.us](mailto:skenny@montclair.k12.nj.us)

## **8th Grade:**

### **Field Research Trip**

On January 13th, the 8th grade students went on a trip to Saint John's the Divine in Manhattan where they toured and observed the geometric architectural design and how geometry played a huge role in the building of the church. Pictures: [Saint John's the Divine](#)

On February 17th, the 8th grade students will be taking a trip to the Meadowlands Environmental Center in Lyndhurst, NJ. Students will be engaged with a morning/afternoon science workshop titled Biobasics. We are encouraging students to wear layers as there will be multiple outdoor components no matter rain/shine. Students also need to bring their own lunch to eat on site. Permission slips will come out the week of February 13th.

### **Parent Conferences**

Any parent/caregiver wishing to meet with the 8th Grade team can make an appointment with Jackson (rjackson@montclair.k12.nj.us). We can meet on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at 2 pm via Zoom or in person.

### **Science**

This week students are working on a variety of chemistry concepts between solidifying their understanding of balancing equations to modeling with gummy bears for ionic/covalent bonding. Introduction to the Renaissance 2023 science fair is coming very soon with information for families.

### **Important Upcoming Dates:**

- January 16, 2023
- January 26, 2023
- January 30-31, 2023

Martin Luther King Jr. Day; School Closed  
Curriculum Thursday; 1:25 pm Dismissal  
Math Midterms (6-8)

