

Sachem Central School District at Holbrook

51 School Street, Lake Ronkonkoma, NY 11779

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Superintendent of Schools

Samoset Middle School
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Dear Students, Parents and Guardians:

I hope that you have had a restful and enjoyable summer.

I am sure that you are aware that school begins on **Wednesday, September 6th**. Student schedules will be available on the parent portal as of Thursday, August 31st and should be printed and brought to school. All students will report to their homeroom classroom listed on the schedule. Homeroom begins at 8:10 and 8th period ends at 2:30. Time will be allowed for students to find lockers and read schedules. There will be staff members available to help interpret schedules and help students find their way to class for the first few days of school. Sixth grade students will be spending most of the first day becoming acquainted with their teachers, classmates, teams and new school as they participate in ice breaking and orientation activities.

Emergency Cards will be given out in homeroom and should be completed and returned to school **as soon as possible**. Please be sure to check the telephone numbers that you write on these cards for accuracy, and please be aware that we cannot and will not release our students to anyone who is not listed on the emergency card. *Anyone entering and/or signing a student out of Samoset Middle School will be asked to show photo identification at our main entrance and attendance office.* Please remember to bring your ID with you every time you come into the building!

Our Student Handbook, including Dress Code, can now be viewed on-line. Please go to www.sachem.edu/schools/samoset to download the following forms:

- Web Page Picture Form
- Parent/Student Signature Sheet

These forms must be returned to school on September 6th. If you do not have access to a computer, please pick up copies of the handbook and forms from the Main Office. Please be aware that your child will not be able to participate in any field trips, sports or extra-curricular activities until these papers are returned to school.

RETURNING TO SAMOST THIS YEAR: Backpacks are only allowed to and from school. Students cannot use backpacks during the school day. STRING BAGS may be used between classes.

You can view the Sachem bus stops for both regular buses and sport/club buses on the Samoset Webpage. Please spend a moment finding your correct stop and bus number. Please keep the number handy as well as recording it in your child's agenda. Buses will be in numerical order in front of the school at dismissal, so look for your bus number in the window near the door of the bus. **Please be aware that bus stops for after school programs may be different than those for regular morning and afternoon runs!**

We do not allow students to take any bus other than the one assigned. This is for safety reasons as some buses may become dangerously over crowded. In an **emergency** only, *and with a note signed by a parent/guardian*, a **one time** use pass will be issued with copies forwarded to our Transportation office. In the event of extenuating circumstances, please contact us.

As a reminder, **cell phones are not permitted during school hours.** Any student who has a cell phone in school must have it turned completely off and locked in his or her locker. We provide a telephone in the Main Office exclusively for student use and will be happy to relay any messages that you wish to have delivered to your child during the school day. Additionally, we remind students that in order to use the phone, you must have a pass from your teacher. **(Please see Code of Conduct)**

Good attendance is very important on the middle school level. A great deal of material is covered each day and students need to be in school to reap the full benefit of class instruction. We expect all students to be in school, on time! In the event that your child is absent, please remember to call our **Attendance office at 471-1700, option 1** on the day of the absence. A written absence note is also required for each and every absence. Please be aware that if you are requesting homework for a child that will be absent for three or more days, 24 hours are required to fulfill your request. For shorter absences, please encourage your child to find a buddy in class and exchange phone numbers in order to keep up to date on assignments. Also, many of our teachers have Schoolnotes or other web-based accounts and assignments can be found on line.

I would encourage all students and parents to join the **PTSA** . Our PTSA is very active and works very hard to provide our students with many enriching activities through the Cultural Arts programs that they help to coordinate throughout the year. Parents, students and staff are invited and welcome to join us at our first meeting on Tuesday, October 24th in the Samoset Library at 7:30 P.M.

Watch for a flyer which will be sent home shortly with information on our fall pictures.

The supply list is readily available on the Samoset web page at www.sachem.edu/schools/samoset. We will be distributing Samoset **agendas** on the first day of school, courtesy of our PTSA. Please have your child *write their name and bus routes for regular and late buses in the agenda*. We expect that students will use the agenda on a daily basis to record homework assignments. In the event that an agenda needs to be replaced, a limited supply will be available in the Main Office for \$5.00.

Students! If you have not yet done so, there is still time for you to read a book! Please don't forget that the first writing assignment of the year in all grades will be based on the book that you read over the summer. I am looking forward to hearing about some great stories when you return on September 6th.

Enjoy the remaining days of summer!

Sincerely,

James Horan
Principal