

AE/MS Eighth Grade Prepares For MVHS

By Susan Schultz
AE/MS School Counselor

On December 8, AE/MS eighth grade students are scheduled to visit Merrimack Valley High School for a tour planned by Mr. Joe Rider, MVHS ninth grade school counselor and AE/MS school counselor Mrs. Susan Schultz.

This year, AE/MS students will learn about MVHS from a variety of people, including Mr. Rider, the assistant principal, a freshman teacher, the librarian, and a food service representative.

Current MVHS freshmen (and former AE/MS students) Fiona White, Alyson Mullet, Vincent Bolte, Shelby Perrault, Jeff Bates, and Amy Wittel will help lead our current eighth graders on a tour of the high school and will also be part of a panel discussion at the end of the tour. This panel will also include former AE/MS students Haley Adams (10th grade), Stephanie Croteau (11th grade), and Danielle Adams (12th grade). Our students will be able to ask all kinds of questions regarding the transition from a small middle school to a large high school.

Following our visit to MVHS, our eighth graders will stop for a snack at Dunkin Donuts, a tradition Mr. Tucker and Mrs. Lemeris initiated many years ago, which is looked forward to by everyone on the trip!

Transitioning to high school can be made easier for parents and students alike. Taking advantage of attending the parent information night in the spring and the student orientation day in August can help all to become more familiar with what MVHS has to offer. Reading course descriptions at MVHS's Web site can help students learn class expectations. Joining sports teams and extra-curricular activity groups and clubs can help students from Andover meet students from other towns and make new friends – sometimes even before school starts, if you join a fall sports team.

If a student is anxious about starting high school, MVHS teachers are usually available the week before school starts. If you call the Guidance Office, you can usually arrange for a private tour where students can see where their classes will be held and meet some of their teachers.

Parents can help their new high schoolers by helping them to learn time management skills. Sitting down with your son or daughter and helping them plan out their weekly and daily schedule for homework, sports, extracurricular activities, and sleep can be one way to do this. Use of calendars to map out these obligations, as well as long-term assignments and tests, can help your child learn how to become a more organized and successful student.

And finally, get connected! E-mail all of your child's teachers asking that they contact you if there are any issues regarding your child. Use the school

Web site to keep up with your child's grades and what is going on at MVHS in general. If you feel things are not going well for your child in a particular class, request a meeting with the teacher. If your child is having difficulty socially, ask to meet with Mr. Rider or the counselor in the Wellness Center.

News from page 44

basketball teams started informal practices before Thanksgiving. Coaches Jim Tucker and Michael Jensen are looking forward to a great season with the Andover Eagles.

It's Winter Concert Season! The first holiday program is December 8 and will include students in kindergarten through fifth grades performing with their classes.

The second holiday program on December 15 is more of an instrumental evening for the bands and individual musicians. Community members are invited to come and enjoy both winter concerts. It's always fun to see the kindergarten students take the stage for their first time.

The Holiday Shoppe will be held on Friday, December 9. This is the much anticipated shopping day for all students. It gives the students an opportunity to surprise their immediate family members with gifts they pick out all by themselves. Due to the generosity of the community, we are able to have a bountiful Holiday Shoppe every December. AE/MS School Nurse Christine Frost will be coordinating the special day this year.

The Andover Recreation Committee is once again generously making the Friday ski program available and affordable to Andover families. The first ski day is Friday, January 6. Students have the opportunity to alpine ski or snowboard at Ragged Mountain.

Any questions regarding this program should be directed to Andover Recreation Committee members Ellie

The first year of high school evokes feelings of excitement and nervousness for everyone. Just remember that it will take all of you a month or so to adjust, and being understanding and supportive of your child during this first year is one of the keys to a successful transition.

George or David Powers. Participating students will be dismissed early on Friday afternoons to participate in the town program. Those students who do not ski on Friday afternoons will have the opportunity to skate at the Proctor Academy rink. Skating also starts on January 6. Students must have skates and helmets.

Congratulations to the large number of Andover students who were named to the Honor Roll at MVHS for the first marking period! You can see the list on page 37.

Grades closed for the first trimester at AE/MS on November 22, and report cards will be sent home on or before December 9. Parent/teacher conferences are currently underway, but a conference may always be requested at any time during the school year.

We are always looking for musical instruments. If you have an instrument in good shape that you no longer use, please consider donating it to the school. Contact Paul Hubert, AE/MS music teacher, if interested. Playing an instrument can be unaffordable for some families, so we try to have instruments available for students.

As I write this on the day before Thanksgiving, I can't help but think about all that our school community has to be thankful for. I am grateful to be part of such a caring, supportive, and generous school community with excellent, dedicated, and caring professionals who work with students who are enthusiastic learners. I appreciate the town of Andover and all it does for our children. We are fortunate.



SEND A CHECK TODAY!



Main Street, New London
(Across from the Gazebo)

363 Days A Year To Serve You...
Ice Creams • Ice Cream Cakes
Yogurts • Sorbets • Brownies &
Cookies • Gourmet Coffees & Hot
Chocolates • Cafe au Lait • Latte
Flavored & Regular Caf & Decaf
Herb & Regular Bigelow Teas
Espressos & Cappuccinos

526-9477

WINTER HOURS

Sun-Thur 11:30 to at least 8
Fri & Sat 11:30 to at least 9



Automobiles • Bikes • Snowmobiles
Insurance Collision Repair
FREE ESTIMATES

Tom Heath • tntautobody@tds.net
8 Stewart St. • Andover • 735-4360
215 Lake St. • Bristol • 744-8448

pediatrics

It's here

Doctors who care for your child.

Pediatricians specialize in caring for children and their unique health issues. LRGHealthcare has the right doctors to help keep your growing family healthy.

www.lrg.org
524-3211

LRGHealthcare

care. compassion. community.