



Rupert A. Nock Middle School

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Elizabeth Collins Raucci, Principal • Lisa Furlong, Assistant Principal

NEWBURYPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

August 14, 2013

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I would like to personally welcome all of our returning families and all new families to the middle school community. I hope you have had time to enjoy these beautiful summer days with your family and rejuvenate your spirit!

If you have driven by the Nock this summer you can see that we are still in the throes of construction. Crews have been busy around the clock getting us ready for school with Phase 1A and Phase 1B close to completion. This includes all seventh grade classrooms, the cafeteria, office areas, sixth grade science, nurse's suite, science labs in grades 6 and 7, and new flooring and lockers throughout. We will continue with phase 2 once school is underway. The building is expected to be completed for the start of the school year with the first day for teachers scheduled for August 26th and the first day for students on August 28th. We have not been permitted to enter the construction area all summer so we are eagerly looking forward to seeing our new spaces!

The family portal to Aspen will be available to view homeroom teachers and team assignments on August 16th. This information will help our students on the first day of school. We will also provide them with more detailed schedules and assist them as they get acclimated to their new teachers and classrooms.

We have hired new staff to fill the various vacancies in the middle school and I am pleased to introduce them to you. Karri Madonna has been hired to teach grade 6 ELA. Karri did an outstanding job filling in during the spring months and is really looking forward to starting in September with a new group of students and making her classroom her own. Brian Nickerson will be teaching band and music and is coming to us from the River Valley Charter School. He has extensive experience as a theater music director as well as a private music instructor. Siobhan Green is our new adjustment counselor. Siobhan is a St. Anselm and UNH grad and has most recently worked in Weare, NH. Bridget Lane will be teaching grade 8 ELA after spending the last few years as a middle school ELA teacher in the Haverhill Public School district. Shantelle Denby hails from Texas and will become part of our ABA program. She is a Baylor University and Simmons College grad and has worked with students with severe disabilities at the New England Center for Children. Sarah Curtis will be leading our STARS program. Sarah has been a special education instructor in the Peabody school system for the last several years. We have hired Christina Gentile a Georgetown University Law School graduate who practiced educational law for

several years before becoming a Special Education Team Chair in the Reading Public School District. She will take over for Thi Rome. Amber Travers will become a special education teacher. She recently finished her masters degree and has most recently been a special education IA at Bresnahan. We are looking forward to working with all of our new staff and supporting them as they start at the Nock.

On the attachment you will find important information and dates to help you plan for the start of school. The first two days of school on August 28th and 29th full days. Our school day begins at 7:30 am. And dismissal is at 2:00 p.m. Students can enter the building at 7:15 and wait in the cafeteria with friends before heading to class because construction crews are still on the playground area. The long weekend of no school will begin on Friday, August 30th and school will resume Tuesday, September 3rd.

We are excited to begin the 2013-2014 school year! Please know that my door is always open for you and I encourage you to contact me with any questions or concerns. Enjoy the remainder of these beautiful days.

Sincerely yours,

Beth Raucci

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Calendar of Events

September and October 2013

**Aug.28- Student's First Day- School begins at 7:30 a.m.
Dismissal time is 2:00 p.m.**

Aug 30- No School

Sept 2- Labor Day/NO SCHOOL

Sept 11- Open House 6:30-8:30 pm

Sept 12- Early Release 10:45 am

Sept 19- Individual School Photos

Oct 3- Early Release 10:45 am

Oct 10- Progress Reports

Oct 14- Columbus Day/NO SCHOOL

Oct 22- Group Class Photos

Oct 25- NO LATE BUS