

Welcome Back to School at BMC!

I hope that you and your family are enjoying a wonderful Summer, inspite of the rain. We certainly have not had to water the Memorial Garden or the soccer fields as much this Summer. Our theme for the 2017-18 school year continues to be **BMC's Got G.R.I.T.! G.R.I.T. stands for Goal Focused, Responsibility/Respect, Integrity, and Teamwork.** One of our most important goals is to continue our work toward improving student achievement. We will meet the needs of our students by teaching and expecting good organization, study and work habits and goal setting. We will continue to be working on aligning our curriculum with the Common Core Learning Standards.

The NYS 3-8 tests have been shortened and revamped. I want to encourage you to have your children take these tests. We have been identified as a **Focus District** based on our NYS test results for our students with disabilities. Because of the high opt-out rate on our exams, our comparative numbers were very low. It is my hope that all of you will encourage all of our students to take the NYS tests this coming school year. Many of the concerns regarding opting-out have been addressed. The tests are shorter, untimed, and the results are not being used for teacher evaluations. The tests have been changed and are developed with much more teacher input.

There have been some changes since we were last together at graduation. Welcome our new staff members; Ms. Teresa Isabella in High School Guidance. Mrs. Rebecca Nichols joins our faculty as our new Kindergarten Teacher. Ms. Jenna Bazderic has been hired as our new Third Grade Teacher, she is filling the vacancy left by Mrs. Kim Racicot who will be providing Reading Support to the Primary grades. At the writing of this letter, we are still interviewing for a Fifth Grade Teacher position, High School English Teacher and two Special Education Teachers. Mrs. Amiee Lorenzo has moved to Mrs. Whipple's AIS Math/Reading Support position. Mrs. Whipple has moved to Westchester County with her family for a new position. Mrs. Beth Kemp has been hired as our Library Media Specialist since Ms. Pickreign's resignation for retirement. We look forward to the changes in technology and learning space in our elementary and high school libraries. This is a vital ingredient to move BMC forward. Mrs. Denise Goodrow has retired and Mrs. Ashley Lamica has moved to First Grade. We welcome our new staff to BMC. You will see some familiar faces in different places as we start the school year. We welcome the involvement of our parents and community in our beautiful school. I hope that you will find this calendar to be very helpful throughout the year. The staff involved in extra-curricular events met in June to plan this calendar. I appreciate their help so much. Mrs. Christina Dufrane put in the finishing touches and now you have it. We look forward to your feedback on it. Please also be sure to check the website at www.bmcisd.org for any items that are received after the calendar was printed. Any changes that are made will also be up-dated on the website.

I would encourage everyone to exercise great care when dropping off students at school, please. It is best to drop off your child at the student drop-off point at the south end of the cafeteria. That way they will not have to cross traffic in the circle. Please save the circle in front of the school for the buses. Please never pass a school bus, even if you are sure that it does not have students.

The first day of school for students is Thursday, September 7th. **Open House is planned for Thursday, September 14th from 5:30 to 6:30 for UPK through 6th grades and 6:00-7:00 for grades 7-12.** I look forward to seeing many of you there when you will be able to meet our new staff and see what we have planned for our students this year.

The floors will be sparkling and rooms ready for our teachers to then prepare for students. Everyone is working extra hard to prepare for the 2017-2018 school year. It is my pleasure to welcome the students and their parents in partnership with our teachers, staff and administration to teach those attributes that make up our **G.R.I.T.**

Enjoy a safe and healthy end to your summer as we plan for an exciting year ahead!

Sincerely,

Donna M. André