

MMS Meeting – September 26<sup>th</sup>

Shelly Somers – Speaker

#### School Norms

- Be Kind
- Goal is to change behavior and be accountable for behavior. School wants kids to be successful.
- Be Ready to Learn
- Be Safe
  - Not just physically but also on social media
  - Safely conduct yourself throughout the day
  - Want kids to feel safe at school
- Be Respectful
- Be Honest
- Seek Solutions
- Have Fun

#### Digital Portfolios – Showcasing Student Work, Targeting Growth and Setting Goals

Dr. Molan – Assistant Principal

- Not just a place for students to post their work – but students appreciate learning for learning (a process), not just for grades. To see progress.
- Will track a student's 3 years at MMS
- Both students and teachers select what is posted
- Reflecting on work

#### 3 main goals

1. **student created goals** that are challenging and provide opp for growth as a reader, writer and thinker
2. **student work** that showcases the type of learning that occurred across subjects areas during the year – **both required and individual**
3. **student written reflections** on progress towards goals, accomplishments, challenges, and areas for future growth

Why a digital portfolio?

Helpful for parents

Helpful for students

Helpful for teachers

Where is it found?

Student Google Drives

Capstone Project – every 8<sup>th</sup> grader will complete  
Culmination of exploration and research over 3 years time  
Driven by student's interest and curiosity

Capstone Project across the Grades

Focus: Change

- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade: Change in MMS/Darien
- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade – Change in Connecticut
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade – Global Change

6<sup>th</sup> grade focus to be expanded each year to consider change on a broader scale

Why do we need to change? Do we change during middle school? Is change good?  
Necessary? How do we change? Exploration of change at 6<sup>th</sup> grade level.  
Thinking about social issues

Who is Grading this?? To Be Determined. Still trying to figure out. Doing this not necessarily  
for a grade but pursuit of learning.

90 minutes/month  
meet in FLEX

Sessions

Student centered

Interdisciplinary

Flex teacher as facilitator

Typical Session

- Teacher intro
- Student driven activity/work
- Break time
- Whole group activity/work
- Individual Task/exit work
- Optional/extended activities

Work stored on digital portfolio – not in place of digital portfolio

Exec Update

Still looking for volunteers with Fundraising – talk to Heather Walsh if interest  
New Spirit Wear coming – selling throughout the year  
Principal Coffee for 6<sup>th</sup> grade parents on October 5<sup>th</sup>

MMS Fundraiser – buy ticket - 15% of 2 days of shopping (October 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>) at Darien Sport Shop

Next meeting - October 24<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am – topic: Successful Failures  
Head of ASPIRE School to speak

Guidance Counselors

Preventative and Responsive

Advisory Lessons – delivered through FLEX each Thursday, tailored for each grade and centered around monthly themes

Student Groups at MMS – Goal is to promote social and emotional learning among all students in a small group setting

Examples from previous years – Girls group, organization, new student, friendships, lunch bunches