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2022 - 2023

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# MIDLAND PRIDE

*A Publication of the  
Rochelle Park School District*



## *Message from the Superintendent, Dr. Sue DeNobile*

Dear School Community Members,

The fourth marking period of the school year brings the excitement of spring; longer daylight, increased outdoor activities, sports, field trips, and even the countdown to the end of a school year!

The students have remained focused and dedicated. Their growth, physically, emotionally, and academically, is especially noticeable this time of year. Students start to become eager for advancing to their next grade level, some of whom will be leaving Midland School #1 to go to high school. Soon the students will be participating in end of the year programs, affording them an opportunity to look back upon all they have accomplished. I hope they will do so with great pride.

Speaking of pride, the Rochelle Park Board of Education has worked hard to bring new and exciting offerings to the students. This school year the Board of Education accomplished significant changes, indoors and outdoors, providing advanced opportunities for all students. Specifically, a STEAM room has been added inside, while outside a new multi-use court and pavillion have been completed.

STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) learning centers provide students with leading edge learning and growth. The Midland School STEAM room is equipped with a 3D printer, laser engraver, large format graphic printer, kiln, robotics equipment and more! The room has an industrial look, lending to an air of innovation and inspiration. The atmosphere and equipment stimulate our students' desire for learning through creativity and design.

Ms. Hughes, STEAM Teacher, offered the following message:

*"I just wanted to take a moment on behalf of the the students and myself to express our gratitude. After spending the last two weeks in our new STEAM Lab the students and I are truly enjoying everything it has to offer and are quickly making it our home. I know it has been a long and arduous process, but to see and experience first hand, the excitement my students had when entering the room for the first time (especially the 8th graders!), made it all worthwhile. Thank you to everyone who had a hand in making this classroom a reality for us...we are very appreciative!"*

On behalf of the Board of Education, we proudly serve this community and look forward to continuing these efforts for the benefit of our students.

With pride,  
*Dr. DeNobile*

## Rochelle Park Board of Education opens new learning spaces!

Inside the STEAM Lab:



On the new multi-use court with pavilion in background:



The pavilion is a fantastic structure that offers much more than shade! The pavilion provides an outdoor learning space for all students. This space fosters creativity beyond the typical four walls of a classroom, increases motivation to learn, and improves focus and behavior. Students' imagination, cognitive and social skills are enhanced. It also offers a welcoming environment where members of our community can enjoy seating and conversation. Adding to this, the multi-use court, which offers basketball, pickleball, and four square, has provided other benefits. The court provides a fenced area for children to assemble in the morning, away from the main road of the front entrance. Recess time is enhanced as well as outdoor physical education. **Overall, the new courts and pavilion are solid spaces for students to learn, grow, and thrive!**

### Midland School #1 students proudly demonstrating their windmill project design challenge talents!



# "CREATE, INSPIRE, COLLABORATE"

## Midland School #1 students proud at work in the new STEAM Lab!



critical thinking

cross-curricular connections

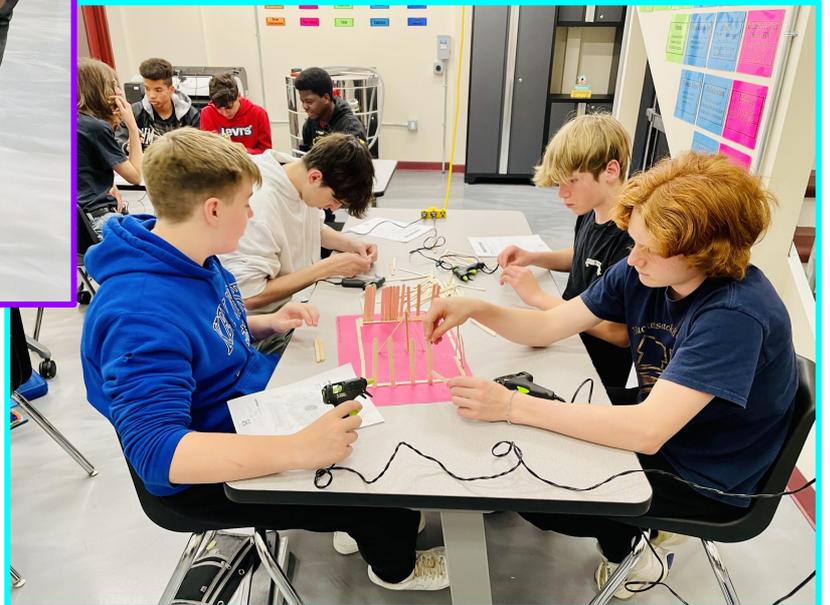
real world application

curiosity & creativity

engineering

designing

teamwork



**MIDLAND PRIDE!**

# Principal's Page

Mr. Michael Alberta, Principal



## Teen Arts Festival

On Friday, May 19th, the Midland School Chorus and Band performed at the Bergen County Teen Arts Festival. The day was highlighted by performances as well as featured art pieces by our TAG art club.

## Midland School Calendar Reminders...

- May 26th – School Closed \*Emergency Day Give Back
- May 29th – School Closed – Memorial Day
- May 30th – School Closed \*Emergency Day Give Back
- June 9th – Torch Run for Special Olympics
- June 12th – Field Day Grades 5–8
- June 13th –Field Day Grades Pre K–4
- June 16th – Kindergarten Celebration
- June 19th – School Closed \*Emergency Day Give Back
- June 20th – 1/2 Day Schedule for Students **(No After Care)**
- June 21st– 1/2 Day Schedule for Students **(No After Care)**
- June 22nd – Last Day of School  
 1/2 Day Schedule for Students **(No After Care)**  
 8th Grade Clap Out  
 8th Grade Graduation Ceremony 7:00 pm



## Spelling S-U-C-C-E-S-S

Midland School conducted its annual spelling bee in April. We had 15 middle school students compete to become Midland's top speller.

Congratulations to our winners and all of our participants for a job well done!



## Boosterthon Fun Run

In April, Midland School participated in the Boosterthon Fun Run. The event kicked off with an assembly and culminated with a Fun Run on April 28th. Students received a number of character education lessons and earned prizes for their fundraising efforts. **Thank you to the Midland School PTO for sponsoring this great activity!**

## Midland School Presents: The Digital Dilemma

In late March, Midland School offered a workshop to parents featuring renowned speaker Timothy Shoemaker and his '*Digital Dilemma*' presentation. Mr. Shoemaker's parent presentation focused on the dangers our students are facing during the digital age.

# Spotlight on Curriculum

**Mrs. Cara Hurd**  
Director of Curriculum  
churd@rochellepark.org

## Reader's Workshop

Teachers are wrapping up their PD Sessions on Reader's Workshop, getting reading to fully implement the Balanced Literacy, Reader's & Writer's Workshop Model into their classrooms in the fall. Teachers have been working with our Literacy Coach, Mrs. Brianne Annitti this year on reading



mini lessons, reading conferences, shared reading, guided reading, small reading strategy groups, guided reading, and interactive read alouds and grand conversations.

Pictured here is Mrs. Annitti providing a demo lesson in Ms. Sinclair's 4th grade ELA class, modeling small group work with the students.



**\*COMING SOON\***

**Summer Reading & Math Assignments:** A notice will be emailed to all families and will be posted on Midland School's website at the close of the school year.

## Summer Transition Program

We are excited to offer the Summer Transition Program once again. STP is made possible through a grant providing full program funding.

Grant eligible students invited to the program are those entering Grades 1-8 in September. Students will be provided with instruction on ELA and math concepts, as well as participate in STEAM activities, SEL projects, and other arts and crafts. The STP will run during the month of July here at Midland School. We are excited for another successful summer of fun and learning!

We look forward to seeing registered students on July 5th!

# Education is Special!

Mrs. Rebecca Garcia ~Director of Special Services



## Special Olympics BOCCE

Congratulations to the Rochelle Park Lions who participated in their first ever Bocce Ball competition on May 18, 2023. They competed against the Lakeland Area Team. Each player received a medal for their participation. The students practiced and competed under the leadership of Ms. Cohen, Ms. Hilla, Ms. Leithauser, and Mrs. Latronica. Through their participation the students learned the rules of the game, strategies, new vocabulary, math skills, communication, and teamwork. Participation in bocce supported the students' physical and social development. ***Their spirited participation was simply superb!***



### Let's Taco 'bout a fun lesson!

In honor of Cinco de Mayo, Ms. Johnson (Grades 6-8 self-contained teacher) and her students made salsa, guacamole and tacos! Through this activity students learned about culture, math skills, nutrition, and life skills. They enjoyed the food they created together too!



Extended School Year Program  
July 5th - July 27th  
8:30am - 11:30 am  
Contact your child's case manager for any questions you may have.

# BUSINESS MATTERS

*Dr. James Riley, Business Administrator/Board Secretary*



The budget is a plan that balances the educational needs of our students with fiscal responsibility to our taxpayers. This year's budget includes a modest tax increase that maintains all our instructional and programmatic needs.

The total projected tax impact based on the average home value of \$334,605 for the 2023 - 2024 school year is \$87.37.

For details on the district's budget please visit our [website](#).



The Rochelle Park School District was awarded the New Jersey Department of Health School HEPA Distribution grant! 65 New HEPA air purifiers and replacement filters have been received with an approximate value of \$37,000. This grant award provides a significant cost savings to the district, and above all, supports our continued efforts to provide a healthy environment for everyone. A new air purifier will be placed in each classroom and office.

More information is available [here](#).

## Summary

- Along with other preventative measures, maintaining adequate ventilation is an important strategy towards providing a healthy environment in schools.
- Proper ventilation reduces the likelihood of spreading disease and promotes overall health, wellness, and comfort of students and teachers alike.

## Bicycle Safety

During the month of May, Midland School had a Wellness Day for grades Kindergarten through 3rd where Officer Chris taught the importance of bicycle safety. The topics covered were correct bicycle and helmet fit, safe places to ride, importance of visibility, hand signals and where to use them, understanding relevant traffic rules of the road, and identifying improper and unsafe biking behavior. The lesson included the following video [Bicycle Safer Journey](#) and an interactive powerpoint.



# SRO HIGHLIGHTS

D/Lt. Chris Bermudez, School Resource Officer

### McGruff & Scruff's Bike Riding Tips

## Riding Right

- **Wear a Helmet and Fasten it.**
- **Wear Bright Clothing.**
- **Put Reflectors on Your Clothes, Helmet, and Bike for night riding.**
- **Obey the Rules of the Road.**
- **Look Both Ways. Most crashes happen at intersections or driveways.**
- **Ride on the Right Hand Side of the Road.**
- **Walk your bike across busy intersections.**
- **Lock up or protect your bike.**
- **Ride with Friends.**



McGruff and Scruff are registered trademarks of NCPC. For more information visit NCPC.org

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# TECHNOLOGY TIPS

Mr. Kevin Cox  
Coordinator of Technology Services

## Tips for Summer Tech Safety

Set limits for your kids as they engage in social media, explore the Internet and text friends during the summer.

### Get Tech Savvy

Become familiar with the tools and social media platforms your kids are using. Follow their activity and know who their connections are.



### Watch Smart

Use tools to filter movies and programming based on ratings, violence and sexual content.



### Surf Smart

Use tools that restrict access to sites with inappropriate content, and monitor whether settings have been changed.



### Talk Smart

Teach your kids the proper procedures for handling calls on the old-fashioned home phone.



### Be Wireless Smart

Install "sleep" functions so that calls after a certain hour go directly to voice mail.



### Set Limits

Set clear boundaries, and be consistent with enforcing rules.





Rochelle Park Board of Education pictured left to right:

*Mr. Kral, Mr. Schaadt, Mrs. Cravello, Ms. Rainone, Mr. Marolda, Mr. Martinez, Jr., Mr. Trawinski*

***THANK YOU TO OUR BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR THE  
EXCEPTIONAL SUPPORT YOU PROVIDE  
TO OUR COMMUNITY!***

## **ADMINISTRATION**

### **Superintendent:**

Dr. Sue DeNobile

[sdenobile@rochellepark.org](mailto:sdenobile@rochellepark.org)

### **Business Administrator/Board**

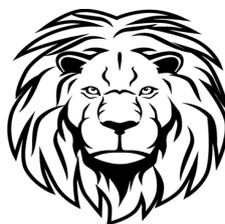
**Secretary:** Dr. James Riley

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**Director of Curriculum &  
Instruction:** Mrs. Cara Hurd  
[churd@rochellepark.org](mailto:churd@rochellepark.org)

**Principal:** Mr. Michael Alberta  
[malberta@rochellepark.org](mailto:malberta@rochellepark.org)

**Director of Special Services:**  
Mrs. Rebecca Garcia  
[rgarcia@rochellepark.org](mailto:rgarcia@rochellepark.org)



## **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

### **President:**

**Mr. Matthew P. Trawinski**

### **Vice President:**

**Mr. Scott Kral**

### **Trustees:**

**Mrs. Teresa Judge Cravello**

**Mr. Jorge Martinez**

**Mr. Joseph Marolda**

**Ms. Elaine Rainone**

**Mr. Charles Schaadt**