Dear Parents and Guardians:

After the harsh winter we are finally getting some beautiful weather. Spring sports are in full swing, students are preparing for State and final exams and there are plenty of events on the school calendar. Remember the budget vote on May 20th. It is very important that we get a good voter turnout. I hope to see you at some of the upcoming events. Please read this entire newsletter as there is vital information for parents contained herein. Have a great Spring!

2014 Final Exam Schedule
Students will begin their final exams on Thursday, June 19th. Students will go to their regular bus stops at regular time. They will arrive at school to take their exams and be dismissed on their regular buses at 10:15 AM.

Thursday, June 19
Science 7- 8 8:00-10:00; Earth Science Regents 12:00-3:00 PM
Regents review sessions: May 27, 29, June 3, 5 after school.

Friday, June 20
Math 7-8 8:00-10:00; Algebra Regents 8:15-11:15 AM
Algebra teachers will run review sessions TBA shortly

Monday, June 23
Foreign Languages/ESL 7-8 8:00-10:00

Tuesday, June 24
Social Studies 7-8 8:00-10:00 & Make up exams (June 17 will be an in-class portion of the exam.)

Wednesday, June 25
English 7-8 8:00-10:00 & Make ups (June 10 will be an in-class essay portion)

Thursday, June 26
Grading Day (Last day for Students)

Some Facts About “Opting out” of State Tests
When parents allow their children to “opt-out” of State tests, we must code those students score sheets as “Refusing to take test.” The State has set a participation rate for all schools at 95% of the student population to be tested. When a school falls below that rate, it is in jeopardy of losing State or Federal funding for essential programs. The State has given districts discretion regarding using student tests scores for academic intervention. This means that principals, teachers and guidance counselors will look at many pieces of student data and not one single test score to place a student in academic intervention. Furthermore, a student will not be removed from an accelerated program if he does not score in the “proficient” range on a State test. Many parents have been well-informed in this cause. Some have been misinformed by their children who have told them that by just writing a note to the principal one does not have to take the test. The State tests are mandatory and all principals must administer them to all students.
7th Grade Field Trip to Ellis Island/Statue of Liberty
In three short weeks our 7th graders will be experiencing a wonderful trip to Ellis Island & the Statue of Liberty. Each team will have their own day to travel beginning on Tuesday, June 3rd (Hawks team), Wednesday, June 4th (Ravens team) and Thursday, June 5th (Eagles team). We will be traveling on Coach Buses to Battery Park, at which time our lunch will be provided by SUBWAY and board the ferry to Ellis Island. I would like to thank the parents and guardians who have sent in the payment and permission slip. If you have not sent in your payment or permission slip, please do so. If there is a problem because of the cost of the trip, please call my office as soon as possible. I will work with you so your child will always have the memory of his/her 7th grade trip from Finley Middle School.

8th Grade Dinner Dance
Eighth graders will have one last dance at Finley where they can socialize with all of their friends and have a great time on a beautiful spring night. On June 13th from 7:00-9:00 PM, we will hold out annual 8th Grade Dinner Dance. This year’s theme is “Under the Sea.” The gym will be decorated and food (pizza) will be served by teachers and chaperones. Tickets are $5. The PTA is sponsoring a picture booth where students can get group pictures with their friends and favorite teachers. It is always a great time.

Student Dress Code-Springtime
Students are aware that the code of conduct contains guidelines for student attire at school. Students must wear clothing that “is appropriate for school, does not advertise inappropriate material, does not contain foul or abusive language and most importantly covers the body so as to avoid embarrassment or disruption to the instructional setting.” Girls’ shorts and skirts must be an appropriate length. Blouses must cover the mid-section and necklines must be appropriate for middle school. Consequences for dress code violations may include written warning with parent signature; parent called to bring appropriate clothing. For repeated offenses, in-school or out-of school suspension may be imposed. Thank you for your support at home.

HAPPY SPRING!

Mr. Amato
673-2020