

## Dear Center School Parents/Guardians:

Our first full week is done. Students and staff settled in quickly and classes are well underway.

Students were happy to get back to their routines. As I walked through the halls and visited classes over the last couple of days, I found engaging activities and happy faces.



Remember, this Thursday, Sept. 19, is **Back to School Night** starting at 6pm. Doors open for parents to meet and greet staff from 6-6:30 pm. The evening program starts at 6:30 pm sharp. See you there!

## **FROM THE CLASSROOMS:**

### **High School**

Ms. Gibson's ELA 12 class is beginning their new novel The Three Musketeers, a historical adventure novel written by Alexandre Dumas. Students are exploring themes of friendship, pride, and morality. Students are off to a great start and are using their research skills to understand what life was like in France in 1625.

Dr. R's Consumer Math class has been figuring out what expenses it would take to move into an apartment by themselves and has been discussing which expenses are wants and which expenses are needs.

Dr. R's Algebra 1 classes started with a video to help them learn mistakes grow their brains and really smart people will often do math slowly. Students have been looking at pictures and answering questions which help them see that everyone sees problems differently and that different approaches can all be correct.

Mr. McMahon's first full week of Science classes went very well. Students in each Biology, Chemistry, and Physics class received a Lab Safety Sheet, a Semester 1 syllabus, and tour of our lab. They also discussed course expectations and general laboratory procedures. Thank you parents for signing off on the Lab Safety sheets and returning them so quickly. Students chose their lab partners as well. Expect

your budding "Sci Guy/Gal" to experience a weekly 2-day lab activity, usually on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Homework will usually be assigned for Tuesday nights prelab prep and on Wednesday and Thursday for data analysis and review.

All of Mrs. D'Alessandro's classes began this year with a couple ice breaker activities that encouraged the students to communicate, collaborate and investigate. The results were great! In all of her classes students established classroom procedures and expectations and have begun first lessons. Mrs. D looks forward to the year ahead!



Ms. Gonzalez' Spanish 1 students have been learning to greet others, make introductions, and express likes in Spanish. They have also been learning how to use a Spanish dictionary to find the Spanish translation of 10 words that are things they like. Currently they are working on a Me Gusta (I Like) poster project by using their "10 Likes" written in the form of a sentence accompanied by a small picture to illustrate each "Me Gusta" sentence. All students are successfully writing their sentences in Spanish, while making a personal connection.

In Spanish 2, students have been learning about the 21 Spanish-speaking countries and their capitals. They are currently working on a Spanish-Speaking Country poster project by using the Internet to research information about their chosen país (country). Students will be making a poster to display the information found about the country and presenting their poster to the class. All are enjoying this fun cultural lesson and doing well.

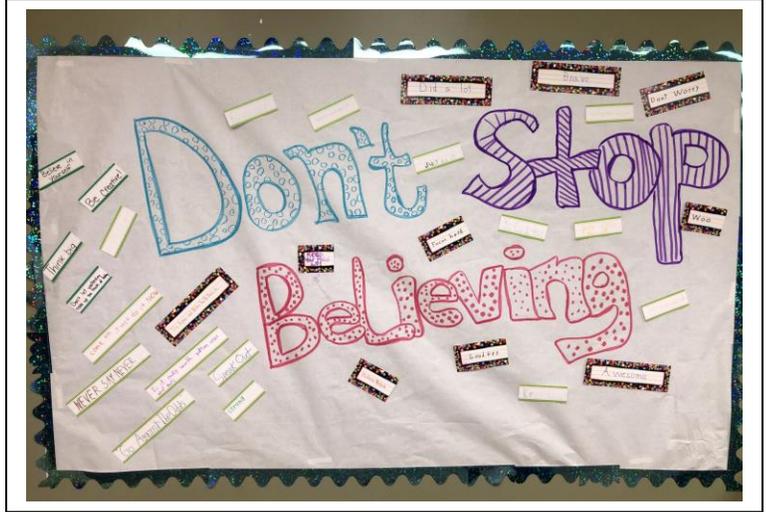
In English 1 students have been learning about the topics of creativity, motivation, drive, perseverance, determination, hard work, inspiration, and believing in yourself by watching various short videos that illustrate each of these topics. They follow up by writing short-responses and then having class discussion. To tie in all of the topics learned, the students are currently writing a "Future Autobiography" where they are writing from the perspective of their future self: "What will you be thinking and doing in five years? Ten? Thirty? How will you get there?" All the students are doing a great job on their autobiographies.

Everything that happened in History happened somewhere. In Ms. Livelli's American History 1 class students are learning about the geography of the earth and how to read a world map. This includes the seven continents, the oceans, equator, and the prime meridian. In Ms. Livelli's World History class students are learning about how historians and archaeologists' research contribute to interpreting our historical facts for us to learn about the past. In our 9th and 10th grade Language Art classes we have started the novel, The Adventures of Tom Sawyer. Since the setting of the story takes place in the 1830's on the Mississippi River we will be able to utilize many cross curricular activities with our history classes.

High School staff are looking forward to meeting parents next week for Back to School night September 19.

### **Middle School**

The Middle School is off to a great start this year. In homerooms the students brainstormed suggestions for in school rewards, field trips, as well as out of the building rewards. They enjoyed this activity as it gave them a voice in the decision-making process. The classes are well into their activities. In English each class is reading a novel. They are learning new vocabulary as well as reinforcing reading strategies. In Science some grades are learning about Earth Science, as others are studying Life Science and another Physical Science. History has the students relating past and present events. Math is in full swing with some reinforcing of basic skills. On Monday the Middle School will have its first reward. Students will be wearing sports apparel and be allowed to use electronics during choice on a non-electronics day. Middle School students and staff created a poster with positive phrases surrounding our school year theme.



### **Elementary School**

The elementary school earned and enjoyed their first reward trip to Kid Street Park this week. Students had fun in the park with their peers climbing, running, swinging, and playing tag. We remembered the events of September 11, 2001 by reading The Man Who Walked Between the Towers by Mordicai Gerstein which is based on the actions of Philippe Petit who did "walk between the towers" on August 7, 1974. Students continued to get to know one another by playing Roll a Topic in Morning Meeting. It was fun to share our favorite food, dessert, movie, and book with each other.



## **Bistro**

A newly hired group of High School students are learning the ropes of working in the Bistro. They are keeping track of their hours, understanding their pay, handling inventory, dealing with customers, setting up, taking down, and cleaning. So far, they are doing a great job!

## **Career Exploration**

Ms. Slovik's Career Exploration class is learning about all the details of college. First on the agenda is trying to get the basic facts to understand if college is truly what is the best option for each of the students. They are exploring local community colleges, regular colleges, and universities. Look for the results of their findings to be posted in the High School wing hallway.

Ms. Quinlan's Career Exploration class began analyzing and evaluating their personality traits and type according to Carl Jung, while also applying their personality type to possible college majors.

## **Life Skills**

Students drafted, created, and posted a flyer for the upcoming Back to School Fundraiser next week. They also prepared and assembled the fundraiser product- pencil flower pots!

## **Financial Literacy**

Students were introduced to various Financial Literacy vocabulary terms in order to become familiar with their definitions and understand contextually correct applications for future use.

## **Music**

Students singing "Don't Stop Believing"  
(our school theme)

This week in music class I saw some returning students and welcomed some new students to music. This year we have added Theater Arts to the curriculum for the High School students. In class students are learning about the origins of the theater and also reading monologues and short skits. Elementary started off great with singing and dancing. Middle School students have started learning about the elements of music starting with rhythm and are also using keyboards during the week.



## **Art**

Some of Mr. Anton's art classes commemorated 9/11 through art.



## **Woodshop**

Students are off to a good start in all the Woodworking classes. This year, we have Elementary, Middle School, and High School students taking Woodworking. It is good to see all these grade levels participating. All students have selected a project and are very excited about their selections. There are a variety of projects being made including corner shelves, bookcases, benches, and stepping stools. It looks like the start of a very good school year!!

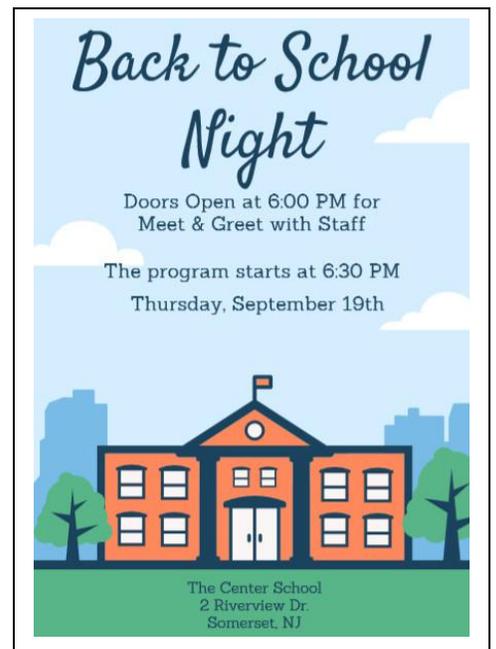
## **Therapeutic Dept.**

Middle school students have all taken part in meet and greet and individual sessions with Mrs. Gorski. Peer Groups will begin for the middle school next week. It has been a pleasure meeting all of our children. Mrs. Gorski looks forward to an exciting year ahead.

## **School News**

### **Back to School Night**

Thursday, Sept. 19, is Back to School Night. Parents will be able to meet and greet staff from 6-6:30 pm before the programs starts at 6:30 pm. Please do not bring children as the evening is planned for parents and guardians.



### **Center School 5K Run**

The Center School will be holding a fundraiser 5K Run/Fun Walk on October 27th, 2019 at Colonial Park, located in Somerset, NJ. The proceeds of this event will be used for student field trips, as well as student-centered activities during the 2019-20 school year.

The event will also act as an opportunity for staff, students, and their friends and families, to socialize and converse outside of the school setting. If you are interested in signing up for either the 5K Run or the Fun Walk, or would like to donate, you can do so by accessing the race website at [centerschoolmoves.com](http://centerschoolmoves.com). If you are interested in being one of the event sponsors you may contact us at [centerschoolmoves@center.school](mailto:centerschoolmoves@center.school).



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**IMPORTANT DATES:**

<b>Thu. Sept. 19</b>	Back to school night- 6pm
<b>Mon. Sept. 30</b>	Closed- Rosh Hashanah
<b>Wed. Oct. 9</b>	Closed- Yom Kippur
<b>Tues.-Wed. Oct. 15,16</b>	Early Dismissal- Parent-Teacher Conferences
<b>Mon. Oct. 21</b>	Picture Day
<b>Wed. Oct. 30</b>	Early Dismissal- Staff Professional Development

Sincerely,



**Dr. Ronald P. Rinaldi**  
**Principal**