

# The MIDDLE Years

*The Monthly Newsletter of Shaker Junior High School*  
*Edition 22 Issue 5*

---

January 17, 2012

To all SJHS Students and Parents:

Happy New Year to everyone! Hopefully you were able to relax and enjoy the holiday season. We now find ourselves rapidly approaching the end of the first semester, which means mid-year exams and beginning our scheduling process for the 2012-2013 school year.

Later in the newsletter is a calendar of our mid-year exams. Mid-year exams are important and very useful in assessing students' progress to date. While we do not want to over-emphasize them, we do wish to provide a balanced perspective on exams for our students, help them learn to prepare for major exams and provide all of us with useful information on students' achievement to date.

Sometimes the weather interrupts our testing schedule. If we have a one-hour delay, there should be no needed revisions to our testing schedule. A two-hour delay or cancellation, however, would result in changes. In these cases, the test scheduled for that day will be given the next school day. This will be done so that students will be well prepared for the test. It certainly is in every student's best interest to do well on these assessments. Please encourage your son or daughter to take them seriously and do his/her best! Extra review sessions have been and will continue to be available; attendance at these can give any student the extra preparation needed to succeed! The grades for these exams appear on the report card for all students; eighth grade mid-year exams also earn quality points toward the promotion requirements. For seventh grade courses, the exam grades are included in the second quarter grade and are weighted twice a regular test grade. Please continue to help your child prepare appropriately for his or her mid-years and the NYS assessments!

To assist in the development of a proper course of study, our scheduling process encourages parental involvement. Please see the article detailing timelines for programming present sixth, seventh and eighth graders into the next grade levels for 2012-2013. Of particular note are the periods of time when teachers and counselors are developing course recommendations. Parents with questions or concerns should contact specific teachers or counselors during these time periods. We hope that this format will encourage your involvement in this crucial process.

A reminder that I will be hosting "Coffee with the Principal/PTA President" on Friday, February 3, from 7:30AM until 9:00AM. PTA President, Christine Seebold, and I will be available to discuss general issues with interested parents. See the article later in this issue for details. Also, please note, that our next PTA/PAC meeting will be held at 7:00pm on Thursday, February 2!!

Parents of 8<sup>th</sup> graders need to be very aware of the NY State assessment schedule in the May – June period. New York State requires all 8<sup>th</sup> grade students to complete assessments in English, math, science, and foreign language. Some tests have to be given on specific dates; others must be given within a certain window of time. These state assessments are used to identify students who need additional support in preparation for future Regents exams. Students who score at level 1 or 2 are required to receive Academic Intervention Services (AIS). One of the intervention services offered is summer school; seventh and eighth graders who score at level 1 or 2 will be required to complete summer school!!! Please refer to the article in this newsletter for more information.

We always stress good attendance and know that your support is needed to achieve it. We appreciate your scheduling of appointments outside of the day whenever possible, and only for important issues. This is especially necessary during our mid-year exam time. Thanks for your help!

Until then, stay interested in your children's education and involved in your school.

Sincerely,

Russell B. Moore, Ph.D.  
Principal

Important Policies/Information on the Web

Please visit our website at [www.northcolonie.org](http://www.northcolonie.org) and click on Shaker Junior High School to review the following. These items have will be included in at least one newsletter during this school year.

- ✓ Behavior Incentive Program
- ✓ State Assessments – Academic Intervention Services (AIS)
- ✓ Promotion/Retention Policy
- ✓ Student Dress Policy

Remember, copies of this information and other policies can be obtained by visiting the SJHS office.

than later in life, when consequences carry a much higher cost!

**\*On this note, if a parent/guardian drops something off for a student, *whether the student called for it to be brought in or not*, the item will remain in the main office until the student comes to claim it. The main office staff does not interrupt the student in class to let him/her know the item is in the main office. The student should periodically check to see if it was brought in.**

Census of Children with Handicapping Conditions

The North Colonie Central School District completes a census each year regarding the number of children with handicapping conditions to ensure that appropriate school programs are provided. Our list includes children from birth to 21 years of age. For preschoolers, we begin to play for the future, and we are able to refer families to agencies that provide special services.

If you know of a family new to the district or a child about whom we should be informed, please complete the following information and return to Mr. Dave Semo, Director of Pupil Services, Shaker High School. We will follow up and contact parents.

Name of Child: \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Parents: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



Raising Responsible Children



Teaching children responsibility is one of the most challenging tasks of parenthood. Responsibility is learned over a long period of time. To encourage its development, parents can:

- Give children a **plant or pet** to care for.
- Use an **incentive system**, such as an allowance.
- Assign regular, age appropriate chores.
- Set up **schedules** to help children budget their time to include play, homework and chores.
- Resist taking over** children's assigned tasks.
- Model** responsible behavior by following through on your own obligations and promises.
- Allow children to experience the **consequences** of failing to follow through with their obligations. Publicly **acknowledge** your child's help.

You may feel it is easier to finish your children's chores. However, by expecting them to be responsible and holding them accountable you will encourage them to be independent and self-reliant. One small way to help students learn to be responsible involves their bringing everything need to school each day. You would be surprised at the number of parents, who, on a daily basis, bring to school forgotten homework, gym clothes, practice or game uniforms, lunches... While no one wants children to experience the consequences of not meeting their responsibilities, doing so can be a valuable teaching tool. Most people agree that missing a lunch once will sufficiently serve as a reminder to young adolescents. We would encourage all parents to think twice before assuming your child's responsibility. It's much more preferable to learn a lesson at this age rather



Bad Weather and Emergency Closings

When there is bad weather and the schools may be closed, please listen to the following radio stations to learn information about when and if school will open: WGNA, WGY, WKLI, WPTR, WQBK, WROW, WTRY, WTEN, WRGB.



Calling Attendance Office

When calling in a student for an absence, please be sure to leave the student's legal full name. First names as nicknames are not helpful.

Your assistance with this would be most appreciated.

### Questions? Concerns? Please Call

Many things take place in schools and parents hear only a part of the story, or an incorrect version of the story. Often the information is only a rumor or 2nd or 3rd hand in nature. If you have a question or are concerned about something you have heard, please do not let your questions or concerns go unanswered. We want people to know the facts about what takes place at SJHS -- we do not want unfounded or untrue rumors being circulated. Although most people realize that stories are often inaccurate and that they change the more they are told.

Please call us at school to clarify rumors. We cannot always give you all the information (there are confidentiality laws), but we can clear up misconceptions. We want you to know the truth so you can be better informed therefore help other people as well.

### AP/Honors Recommendations

We are at the point in the school year when 8<sup>th</sup> grade teachers commence the process of considering appropriate 9<sup>th</sup> grade course recommendations for their current students. The AP and Honors level courses at the high school are very demanding programs and a student's success in such a course of study is dependent upon his/her work ethic, motivation, ability to meet deadlines and academic achievement.

To be considered for the AP or Honors English program in grade 9 a student must be recommended by his/her 8th grade English teacher. This recommendation will be based on:

- a) Earning an "A" on the mid-year exam
- b) Mastery writing as demonstrated by a student's portfolio
- c) Class participation evaluation; demonstration of critical thinking skills
- d) Report card grades of "A" in effort and achievement and no less than "B" in conduct
- e) Social studies criteria are similar with a, d and e from above being included. Also included is: Master writing as demonstrated by student's assignments and tests.

Being recommended for AP or Honors level classes is a decision based upon observations of a student's work ethic and

achievement; as such it is based on past efforts, not on what "might" occur in the future.

Teachers' recommendations are based on high school programs requirements and what teachers observe in class regarding each student's motivation, work habits and achievement. In most cases, recommendations will not be changed. However, if you would like a course of study, different than the course of study that was recommended, considered at the high school please contact the high school guidance office or the appropriate department supervisor.



### School Sports Physicals

Shaker Junior and Senior High Schools announce the remaining 2011-2012 school year sports' physical dates. Athletes needing the annual sports physical must plan on attending to receive a physical from the school doctor. The physicals will be given at the Capital Region Health Park (Community Care Physicians) 711 Troy-Schenectady Road, Latham (South Side Door - Suite 101). Boys' physicals will be from 8:00 – 9:00 am and girls from 9:00 – 10:00 am.

Spring Sports	Saturday, February 11
Fall 2011 Sports	Saturday, June 9

### What You Can Do to Raise Expectations

Make your expectations clear: Remember you are the one who really sets the standards. Look at the work your child does in school – the writing, the art, the books they read, the mathematics. Ask yourself: Are you satisfied with your child's progress? As a parent, your views count. Your child needs to know from you that skills really matter.

Take care of the fundamentals: be sure your student has enough sleep, enough time for homework, a good breakfast, and gets to school on time. Monitor television watching.

Read to your child: reading regularly with your children at home probably can produce more results than any amount of money invested in school reading programs, particularly when children are young. Read things that are fun for both of you. Discuss what you have read.

Find out about our school's standards: get to know what the expectations are from our school and your child's teachers. Look at the curriculum. Ask questions until you feel you understand what's going on. Be willing to work with the teachers to improve performance.



## 2012-2013 Transportation Information

Parents and guardians of district public school students who are requesting transportation to/from an address other than their home address in September 2012, and who are residing in the district on April 1, 2012, must submit transportation requests to the district transportation office. These requests are required by state law and Board of Education policy to be submitted by April 1 of each year for the following school year. Requests received after April 1, 2012 will only be considered for those students moving into the district and submitting requests within thirty (30) days after establishing residency or if a reasonable excuse for delay is acceptable by the district as defined by the Commissioner of Education's legal decisions. Transportation to/from an address other than the student's home address must be located within the district boundary. Such transportation, if approved, shall not become effective until written confirmation is received from the transportation director.

### Attendance Policy for Courses Carrying High School Credit

Shaker Junior High provides the following courses which earn credit towards a high school diploma, providing the student meets all the minimum requirements: Course I Math, Studio Art, Earth Science, and all 8th grade foreign languages. Since these courses earn high school credit, the high school attendance policy applies for students enrolled in these courses.

Following is the exact text of the high school policy:  
*"The awarding of academic credit will be based, in part, on class attendance. Students who do not attend a minimum of 80% of the classes offered in a given subject, regardless of the reasons, will be denied academic credit. Students must attend a minimum of 60% of all classes in order to qualify for summer school or tutorial remediation of a subject in which credit is lost due to violation of Board of Education policy #5123."*



### Late Bus News: Time/Route Changes

Our district provides late bus options for students to get home when they have stayed after school for a legitimate reason. It is not necessary for parents to come to school to pick up students. We insist that students remain after school for legitimate school-related reasons only, such as athletic team practices or games, club or organization meetings, academic assistance from a teacher, assigned detention or other reasons. If we determine that your child has remained in school for no legitimate reason, we will call you to come to school to pick him/her up.

Parents should be aware that these late bus routes take longer to get children home than the normal dismissal routes. There are fewer buses; thus each one has a much greater area to cover. It is possible that a late bus could take forty-five minutes or so to get your child home.

Also, please instruct your child to call when he/she is staying after as a list of students staying after school is not kept in the main office. Should you call the main office inquiring whether or not your child stayed after, we are unable to tell you.

### Physical Education Participation Policy

It is extremely important that all students be physically involved in sport and lifetime fitness activities on a regular basis. Physical education is a vital part of every child's school education, but only if they are actively a part of class.

The Physical Education Department is continuing a regulation regarding excuses from physical education class. Students will be required to make up excused absences, except for extended medical absences as determined by a physician. After a total of two parent excuses or requests to excuse a student from class by the school nurse, students will make up the missed classes after school or during study hall.

The implementation of this rule will help with the transition from junior high to senior high physical education. At the high school, all physical education classes must be made up to successfully earn the physical education credit. In fact, summer school is provided for those who do not pass physical education and diplomas are withheld until completion of the course.

In addition, students now receive an achievement grade in physical education. Missed classes that are not made up will significantly affect a student's grade. This could then impact qualifying for any of our three honor rolls!

### **WHEN YOUR CHILD IS ABSENT**

Please keep in mind that every day we attempt to contact the parent/guardian of each child who is absent from school. We need to make sure that we know the whereabouts of all of our students. This is sometimes a difficult task. Your assistance is greatly appreciated. If you call school the morning of your youngster's absence, you can let us know at that time if the absence will be for more than one day. If we do not receive a call from you, then very likely you will receive one from us. We call home first, but if we receive no answer there then we next try to call you at work. We realize that some people do not like to be called at work but we are obligated to

determine where our students are. If you can, please call us with absence information.

**Illegal Absences** -- Often teachers are requested to put homework packages together for children who are home ill. We will gladly assist in this manner. However, we may not be able to provide specific assignments for students who are to be absent as a result of a family trip that takes place during school time. It may be possible that we can indicate topics that will be covered and provide some assignments. Students are requested to contact each teacher directly. As included in a separate article earlier this issue, the reason for this is as a public school we are charged with enforcing the State's mandate that children attend school. Thus, we would be condoning and encouraging absence from school if we were to make a practice of providing school work for children visiting out of town during the time when school is in session. If school is indeed important, and I know that we all agree that it is, then we should make every effort to see that our children are present. Please plan family trips so that they coincide with regular school vacations. Our children will all benefit from this approach.



### Community Partners

Throughout the course of the school year we give away a wide assortment of gifts to students. These gifts are used as incentives, to thank students for special efforts, to reward them for results or simple as random give-aways. To do so, however, requires donations from area businesses.

Rob Spring, Norris Hall Guidance Counselor, has worked hard at developing relationships with many area businesses. These businesses have donated hundreds of free give-aways that we pass on to our students. We consider these businesses our "Community Partners" and want to thank them for their generous donations.

Our community partners and their donations are:

- Regal Cinemas---- 110 discounted movie tickets
- Ted's Fish Fry---- 10 \$ 5.00 gift certificates
- Little Bites and More---10 gift cert. for pizza and wings
- Stewarts Shops—120 free ice cream sundaes
- Paisan's Pizza – Free gift certificates



### Coffee With the Principal/PTA

Continuing our efforts to help parents feel comfortable with and supportive of SJHS, we would like to continue another avenue in addition to Open School Day held in November. On Friday, February 3, there will be a "Coffee with the Principal/PTA President" hour at SJHS. Parents are invited to stop by the main office conference room anywhere from 7:30 AM to 9:00 AM. Dr. Moore, principal of SJHS, and Ms. Christine Seebold, president of the PTA, will be available to discuss various issues with parents. Coffee, tea and snacks will be available.

This is not an opportunity to discuss individual issues or concerns. Those are better addressed with counselors, teachers or hall principals. Instead, this time is being provided to answer questions about academic programming and the philosophies, practices, and programs of the junior high school, or other more general questions. There is also no formal presentation. This is an informal gathering to talk, exchange ideas, discuss philosophies, etc.

Please mark your calendars. If you would like to stop by just to say "hi" or to have some questions answered, please do so **Friday, February 3, 7:30 AM - 9:00 AM.**

### **Notice to Parents of Shaker Junior High Students**

In accordance with the requirements of the federal regulation known as AHERA (Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act), the school district has conducted inspections and developed Management Plans for each of the district's buildings. These Management Plans include information regarding AHERA inspections, operations and maintenance, periodic surveillance and response action activities.

It is the intention of North Colonie Central School District to comply with all federal and state regulations controlling asbestos and to take the appropriate steps necessary to ensure students and employees have a healthy and safe environment in which to learn and work.

A copy of the asbestos management plan is located at each individual school and is available for review during regular business hours. Please contact Alan Levitus at the maintenance department, -785-5771, if you have any questions or concerns.

### Students Of The Month

SJHS continues its program for positive recognition of students by selecting a "Student of the Month." A picture of each student, along with a certificate of merit, is posted on the glass window of the main office.

All teachers may nominate students each month for this recognition. Each block then reviews all nominated students to make sure each meets the criteria and selects one student to receive the honor.

Criteria for selection of student of the month include:

- 0 points in the behavior incentive program
- B or better in conduct
- C or better in achievement
- polite, cooperative and puts forth good effort

Our Students of the Month for November were:

Calhoun 7	Lauren Dentinger
Calhoun 8	Thomas Thibodeau
Clay 7	Ashley Alexander
Clay 8	Maya Zhou
Houston 7	Gaurab Banerjee
Houston 8	Taylor Manzelli
Norris 7	Ethan Hartlage
Norris 8	Paul Nichols

March 30 –April 4	SJHS guidance counselors meet with 6 <sup>th</sup> grade teachers to discuss course recommendations. <u>*If parents have questions, they should contact appropriate 6<sup>th</sup> grade teachers during this period.</u>
May 18	Hall assignments mailed home.
June 7	Incoming 7 <sup>th</sup> graders Parent Orientation Program, 7:00 PM, SJHS
June 15	Incoming 7 <sup>th</sup> graders – Student Orientation Program at SJHS during the day.
June 30	Deadline for course change requests

<b>Grade 7 to Grade 8</b>	
Jan. 30 – Feb 17	Teachers and counselors develop program recommendations for students. <u>*Parents should direct questions to the appropriate teachers during this period.</u>
March 27	Program sheets and course descriptions, including course recommendation, mailed home. <u>Return to SJHS by April 2 with change requests.</u>
April 2	Signed programming sheets due back to counselor.
June 30	Deadline for course change requests.

### 2012 – 2013 Student Programming Update

Although we are just at the mid-point of the current school year, we are well into the process of program development for the 2012-2013 school year. Knowing when teachers and counselors are in the process of developing specific program recommendations should be helpful to those parents who have concerns or questions regarding course selection, options available, program requirements, etc. Be sure to contact the appropriate teacher or counselor if you have questions.

Keep in mind that no course change requests will be accepted after June 30!! Following are important scheduling dates for each of the three transitions: grade 6 to 7, grade 7 to 8, and grade 8 to 9.

<b>Grade 6 to Grade 7</b>	
January/February	Newsletters explaining process and timeline.
March 2	Programming sheets and course description booklets mailed to parents of current 6 <sup>th</sup> grade students
March 19	Signed programming sheets returned to elementary school teachers.

<b>Grade 8 to Grade 9</b>	
Jan. 30 - Feb. 17	Teachers and counselors develop program recommendations for students. <u>*If parents have questions, they should contact appropriate teachers during this period.</u>
March 5 – 14	Grade 8 programming unit presented. Students receive High School Guide to Program Planning, which explains course descriptions and options.
March 9	Program sheets, including course recommendations, mailed home to parents.
March 15	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Parents' Night, 7:00pm at Shaker High School.
March 19	Signed programming sheets returned to SJHS counselor.
June 30	Deadline for course change requests.

We are trying to maintain an open programming process to allow for a broader involvement of parents. Please notice when teachers and counselors are formulating recommendations. Should you have any special questions or thoughts regarding your child's course of

study for next year, you will want to contact the appropriate people in a timely manner. Should you have any questions or concerns about our process, do not hesitate to contact us.



## NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

---

January is usually a quiet time in the library due to mid-year exams. Miss Stott and Mrs. Peterson (Clay 8) are finishing up an I-movie project. Students research an important character in 20<sup>th</sup> century history and create a music video to be voted on at an awards ceremony.

Mrs. Hobden is working with Norris & Calhoun 7 social studies teachers, Mr. Myer and Mr. Wallingford, on a Revolutionary War battle stations project.

Otherwise, we take this quiet time to catch up on our library administrative duties, such as placing book orders, weeding obsolete materials and meeting with teachers to plan future projects.

### What is a middle schooler?

What is a middle schooler?  
I was asked one day if I know what he was.  
But what should I say?

He is noise and confusion.  
He is silence that is deep.

He is sunshine and laughter,  
Or a cloud that will weep.

He is swift as an arrow  
He is a waster of time

He wants to be rich  
But cannot save a dime.

He is rude and nasty  
He is polite as can be

He wants parental guidance  
But fights to be free.

He is aggressive and bossy  
He is timid and shy.

He knows all the answers,  
But still will ask "why?"

He is awkward and clumsy  
He is graceful and poised

He is ever changing,  
But do not be annoyed.

What is a middle schooler?  
I was asked one day.  
He is the future unfolding  
So do not stand in the way.

## Academic Intervention Services

---

The New York State Education Department has implemented state-wide assessments in math and English/Language Arts in all grades 3 – 8, science in grades 4 and 8 and social studies in grades 5 and 8. The purpose of these assessments are many, including:

- 1) To insure that all schools are covering specific course content
- 2) To provide an assessment to gauge student and school achievement.
- 3) To Increase academic expectations across New York State
- 4) To identify students who need additional support in preparation for high school Regents exams

The fourth purpose listed, to identify students in need of additional academic support, creates issues for schools and for students. Students who earn a score at level 1 or 2 on any of these assessments are required to receive Academic Intervention Services to remediate academic deficiencies. For example, a student who earns a level 2 score on the grade 8 math assessment must receive math AIS; a student who earns a level 2 score in English/Language Arts and math must receive math AIS English AIS. These AIS take many forms, including additional remedial classes, regular family contact/conferences, individualized instruction, participation in special support programs (REACH), individualized instruction, participation in special support programs (REACH), alternative placements, summer school and/or other interventions.

We want all students to take all of these assessments seriously and do his/her best. Even those students who do their best and still earn a level 1 or 2 score need to receive additional academic support to have a chance at future Regents exam success. Each of these support services require additional time from the student's already packed schedule. One option that we will be employing on a more regular basis is summer school. Students who earn scores of 1 or 2 on state assessments should attend summer school in the related course(s) to provide Academic Intervention. This should be considered even if the student passes the respective junior high course. For example, a student

could “pass” math 8 for the year but earn a level 2 score on the NYS math 8 assessment. He/she would surely benefit from attending math 8 in summer school to complete the required AIS in math! Successful completion of the summer school course could reduce, or in some cases even eliminate, the time required for AIS in grade 9. In June we will be notifying by letter the parents of those students who we believe should attend summer school. A final determination will be made once the official student scores are received from the State. Based upon summer school attendance and success, Shaker High School administrators will make a decision regarding the intensity of AIS required in grade 9

### **Builder’s Club Canned Food Drive**



The Builder’s Club is sponsoring a “Souper” Bowl Food Drive which runs from January 30 through February 3. Students are asked to bring in their favorite can of soup of any non-perishable food item.

All items will be donated to a local food pantry. The food drive is part of the inter-hall competition. The hall with the most items donated will be awarded 100 points.

### Dance and/or Activity Night Issues

We hold a student activity night most months for SJH students. We want these social events to be fun for our students and a positive experience for our school. Following are a couple of reminders for parents as well as a consequence to avoid late pick-ups after the dances.

- Only SJH students are allowed to attend our dances or activity events; no cousins, friends from out of town, friends from area schools, etc., will be allowed to attend, unless there are tickets sold at the door. Also, students often must purchase tickets in advance, so we will know who’s planning to attend. Tickets may be sold at the door. Also, a student can only purchase a ticket for him or herself. Tickets cannot be purchased for other students nor can a student purchase a ticket for him/herself and then sell or give it to someone else!

- Activity nights end at 9:00PM, except the 8<sup>th</sup> grade dance in June which will end later. Parents need to be here at 9:00PM to pick up students. Unfortunately, some parents are not as responsible as they should be and sometimes your son/daughter could be playing a game regarding pick-up times, but chaperones who volunteer their time should not be expected to wait around until 9:45 for students to get picked up. Students who are picked up after 9:15PM will not be allowed to attend the next dance.

- After many activities students often visit local restaurants. Generally that would be fine as long as parents or adult chaperones are present. In the past there have been times when parents just dropped their children off. No parents stayed to supervise. In some cases, serious misbehavior resulted; restaurant items were broken, bills were left unpaid, students were disrespectful, etc. In short, students were out of control. We would implore parents to supervise your children at area restaurants to prevent a recurrence of bad situations.

### **School Attendance/Extracurricular Involvement**

---

Parents need to be aware of our requirement that students be in attendance at school for a certain part of a day in order to participate in after school or evening events.

Our position on this has always been that the primary mission of our school is to provide a thorough, comprehensive education to our students. Other activities, such as clubs, athletic teams, school event, etc. are extra and available to students only if they meet our primary goal of receiving an education. Thus, students must be in attendance at school for at least 3 hours during a school day to participate in any events or activities after school or the evening of that day. The three-hour time period could be any time during the day. That is, it could be early in the morning or afternoon or a combination of the two. Students must be meeting the primary objective of our school in order to participate in extra school events and activities. There will be some exceptions to this rule. Often, there are family or emergency events that require a student being absent from school for an entire day, such as a religious observance, a funeral or other necessary family activity. These events for the most part can be planned for ahead of time. Thus, if we know of a student’s absence, at least the day prior to the absence, then the student will be allowed to take part in after school and/or evening events the day that he/she is absent from school and does not meet the three hour requirement. Please plan ahead for any such eventualities.

### Character Education Traits

---

Following are the character education traits, which will be addressed over the course of the school year. For each week listed, members of the identified department(s) will review the term with all classes. Parents are encouraged to discuss these traits with your child(ren) at home.

Week Of	Department	Character Trait
Feb. 6 – 10	Science	Patient
Feb. 13 – 17	Math	Tolerant
Feb 27-Mar 2	Art/Tech/H&C	Honest
Mar 5 - 9	Foreign Language	Thankful
Mar 12 – 16	PE/Health/Music	Polite
Mar 19 – 23	English	Considerate
Mar 26 – 30	Social Studies	Generous

support of the District, PTA, and parents, we have been able to replace the lighting systems, seats and carpeting in addition to providing a climate-controlled environment in the auditorium. We would like to continue our efforts by purchasing equipment needed to improve the stage and assembly room. If you would like to contribute as a "Friend of the Junior High Theater" in support of these advancements, please return the patron message.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Patron Slip**

**BEAUTY AND THE BEAST**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Pledged: \_\_\_\_\_

Message for Program: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to Mr. Vasilakis by Friday, March 2, 2012.

Thank you for your support.

\_\_\_\_\_

-----

Musical Patronage



Again this year, parents and students have the opportunity to be a patron and help support the financial costs of the show. If you would like your name and/or a short message included in the patron's list, please fill out the form and return it with your pledge of \$5, \$10, \$25, or other amount to Mr. Vasilakis by Friday, March 2, 2012.

**SPECIAL NOTE:** Over the past few years we have been improving the Shaker Junior High School auditorium as a performance venue. Thanks to the

**MID-YEAR EXAM SCHEDULE  
JANUARY 2012**

**FINAL DRAFT**

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
2 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	3	4 Foreign Language	5 Speaking	6 Assessment
9 Foreign Language Speaking Assess. Cont'd	10	11	12 Science 8 (Part 2) In Class	13 Studio Art 11:00-2:00
16 <b>NO SCHOOL (MLK Day)</b>	17 For. Language In Class	18 English 7/8 (8:15-10:37)	19 Social St. 7/8 (1.5 hrs.)	20
23 For. Language In Class	24 Math 7/8 (2 hours)	25 Earth Science (2 hours) Science 7/8 (1.5 hours)	26	27 End of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter
30	31			<b>QUIZ BOWL (Fri, Feb 17)</b>

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

### **JANUARY**

Jan. 17 – 25 Mid-Term Exams  
Wed. 1/18 Ski Club #3  
Wed. 1/25 Ski Club #4  
Fri., 1/27 End of 1<sup>st</sup> Semester  
Jan. 30-Feb 3 Canned Food Drive

### **FEBRUARY**

Wed., 2/1 Ski Club #5  
Thurs., 2/2 PTA/PAC Meeting 7:00pm  
Fri., 2/3 Coffee with Principal/PTA  
Wed. 2/8 Ski Club #6  
Fri. 2/10 Newsletter Posted  
"The Show" 7:00pm  
2/20 – 2/24 NO SCHOOL –Winter Break

***The Middle Years* is published  
monthly by Shaker Junior High School  
475 Watervliet Shaker Road  
Latham, NY 12110  
(518) 785-1341  
© copyright 2008**