

January 11, 2021

Dear CMS Families,

As we welcome a new year with hope on the horizon, last Wednesday's insurgence at the United States Capitol Building has left us shaken and disturbed by the appalling attacks we witnessed. In our classrooms, we are allowing space for our students to share their feelings and ask questions; understanding that we may have more questions than answers. We understand that some students may have strong feelings while other students may not. That is okay. Many parents have reached out to offer their gratitude in how their child's teachers addressed these historical events: with grace, compassion, and respect.

We are all humans with thoughts and emotions and our vulnerability to facilitate difficult conversations with our students is a sign of courage rather than weakness. Our teachers continue to be mindful of their role in sharing age-appropriate lessons to support students because if we ignore these historical events, then we are in danger of "normalizing" what happened. Attached is an article from May 2018, that was shared with teachers to help provide guidance to conversations in a meaningful and appropriate manner in the classroom.

In 1964, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. accepted the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo, Norway, and said, *"I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality. This is why right, temporarily defeated, is stronger than evil triumphant."* As a school community, may we find strength, resolve, and courage to work together and do our part in building a better world. May we listen, show compassion, kindness, patience, and respect as we continue through this school year. It is with gratitude that I show my utmost respect for our teachers and school community for supporting us through the many challenges we have endured this school year.

Kindly,
Patty Wons

Grade 8 Transition Planning

As we welcome the New Year, we begin our 8th Grade Transition planning. Jaime Sawler, Director of School Counseling, has been busy organizing a few transition activities for our 8th grade students. CMS 8th grade teachers will make course recommendations online from January 25th through February 5th. On January 26th, our

8th grade students (both remote and in-person) will view a video from Exeter High School and the Seacoast School of Technology during the school day at CMS. Afterwards, the video will be emailed home for parents to view and posted to the CMS website. **“Blue Hawk 101,” a presentation for 8th grade students and parents, will take place Thursday, January 28, from 6:30 – 8:00 PM.** This presentation will be a webinar via Zoom and a link will be provided to all families. The following week, Kathy Newcomb, EHS Freshman Counselor, will meet with students by cohorts, for both remote and in-person learners, for a question/answer session. Exeter High School Course Registration window is open from February 5 - 14. The Cooperative Middle School Counselors will meet with all grade 8 students individually to review course selections from February 8 - 19. If you have any questions regarding this process please contact Jaime Sawler at jsawler@sau16.org

Transition Day - January 13, 2021

- **Remote Learners** will:
 - Attend their off-team classes
 - Grade 6 attend Period 1 and 5
 - Grade 7 attend Period 3 and 6
 - Grade 8 attend Period 2 and 4
 - Check their SeeSaw page for more details regarding expectations for ELA, Math, Science, and Social Studies classes.
- **Students in the Blue Cohort** will:
 - Attend World Language or Intervention class
 - Log into their iReady Pathway for Math and English Language Arts lessons
 - Check their SeeSaw page for more details regarding expectations for ELA, Math, Science, and Social Studies classes.
- **Students in the White Cohort** will
 - Attend three remote classes: World Language or Intervention, Unified Arts or Music, and Health or Wellness
 - Log into their iReady Pathway for Math and English Language Arts lessons
 - Check their SeeSaw page for more details regarding expectations for ELA, Math, Science, and Social Studies classes.

In-Person Learning Resumes January 14, 2021