

# The MIDDLE Years

*The Monthly Newsletter of Shaker Junior High School*  
*Edition 9, Issue 8*

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To All SJHS Parents and Students:

April 20, 2007

The school year is now three-quarters completed, yet a very crucial portion of the school year still remains. The 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter ended Tuesday, April 17, and report cards will be mailed April 24. Planning is also underway for special end-of-year activities. Note the new look of our newsletter! We have responded to last year's survey and have created a more reader friendly, less redundant newsletter. **Many thanks to Lela Katzman, owner of Full Spectrum Communications, Building Council member and parent of a junior high student for her expertise in this transition!**

In addition to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade parents, this newsletter is being sent to the parents of all current 6<sup>th</sup> graders in District or private schools. Welcome to Shaker Junior High, and we look forward to your involvement over these next two years! *The Middle Years* is published monthly to keep you apprised of upcoming events and policies. There is one more newsletter for this year, scheduled to be mailed on May 25. The newsletter is also available via the District web page.

As we approach the year-end testing period, we continue encouraging all students to seek extra time after school with a teacher. All tests are given in the morning, when students are most alert and attentive. Parents can help by making sure children take these tests seriously, get sufficient sleep, eat properly, and are in a good frame of mind each day. Positive support is essential and daily attendance each day of the testing period is critical. Thanks in advance for your assistance. The schedule for all testing between now and the end of school can be found in this newsletter. The late June dates are tentative: a final schedule will be published in the next newsletter. Our next scheduled tests are:

- May 1: (Practice) DBQ Day
- Grade 8 science performance assessment: April 18 – May 27
- Grade 8 science written assessment: May 10

I encourage parents of 8<sup>th</sup> graders to read the article in this edition on our end-of-year ceremony, a nine-year tradition that is still going strong! Like last year, the dance will be held at the JUNIOR HIGH, not the high school. We have scheduled this ninth annual special evening for 7:00 p.m. on Friday, June 9. Students have to attend the awards program to be able to attend the dance. We conduct less formal end of year programs for 7<sup>th</sup> graders, by hall, the last day of school.

Thus 7th Grade Hall Awards programs will be held on Thursday, June 21.

8<sup>th</sup> GRADERS SHOULD NOT ATTEND SCHOOL ON THURSDAY, JUNE 21!

The annual School Board Election and Budget Vote will be held on Tuesday, May 15, the same date for all school districts in New York State. You can vote at the elementary school in your area, including Goodrich School, between 9:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. An informational brochure on the budget and the candidates vying for Board of Education positions was recently mailed to all district residents. Board of Education representatives will be at our May 9<sup>th</sup> PTA meeting to provide an overview of the budget proposal; candidates for Board seats will also be present to introduce themselves.

The final 2007 *The Middle Years* newsletter will include details on all end-of-year testing, dismissal schedules, and other special information. May is also designated as Music and Art for Youth Month. There will be many events taking place throughout the District to highlight our students' talents. The opening reception is scheduled for Monday, May 7, 6:30 p.m. at Latham Circle Mall. Please be sure to visit the mall to see the great art work our students create!

Your assistance in keeping students focused on their responsibilities through the last day of school is very much appreciated. Stay involved and in touch with your school.

Sincerely,

Russell B. Moore, Ph.D.  
Principal