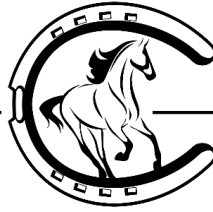


Cedar Drive Middle School

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www.coltsneckschools.org



Principal
Colin Rigby, Ed.D.

Assistant Principal
Jeremy Mercer

Guidance Counselor
Lauren Hums

August 24, 2023

Dear Cedar Drive Students and Families,

We hope this letter finds you and your family doing well and enjoying the last weeks of a beautiful summer. The summer months provide us with opportunities to recharge, unplug a bit, and engage in quality time with family and friends. Following a well-deserved break, we hope that you are rested and ready to begin what promises to be an outstanding school year at Cedar Drive!

The staff at Cedar Drive is busy making last minute preparations to the building in anticipation of students' arrival on Wednesday, September 6th. We would like to extend a special thank you to the Colts Neck Township Buildings and Grounds Crew, Custodial Staff, and Technology Department for all their hard work and efforts throughout the hot summer months. Additionally, we would like to celebrate our Extended School Year and Summer Bridge teams for planning and facilitating creative, targeted instruction to students over the past six weeks.

We would like to welcome back everyone who is returning to Cedar Drive and extend a warm welcome to all of our new students and families joining us for the first time. During the upcoming year, we will all learn from each other, encounter challenges together, solve problems, and discover opportunities for growth and success inside and outside of the classroom. The 2023-2024 school year will provide a chance to connect with teachers and peers, an opportunity to build on previous experiences, and to explore new interests. We look forward to partnering together to create an engaging learning environment for all students grounded in rigorous and relevant learning, strong relationships with students, staff, and families, and a shared commitment to active discovery and exploration. Students' academic and social development remains the primary focus and a belief in continuous improvement will continue to move our CDMS community forward!

Please review a few important reminders and dates in preparation for the 2023 - 2024 school year:

Genesis Parent Portal: On Friday, August 25th, the Genesis Parent Portal will be open for parents/students to see their homeroom teacher, team, and bus route information. When students arrive at school on September 6th, they will report to their homerooms where they will meet their teachers and receive their full schedules.

To access the Genesis online portal, click [HERE](#) . You will need to enter your username and password. In the event you are unable to access the Genesis System, please contact Mr. Phil Capasso at capasso@coltsneckschools.org

Payschools Central Online Portal: The Colts Neck School District operates a computerized point of sale system (POS) in all of its cafeterias. Students can purchase their lunch and snacks by debiting their account. Please visit the website here [HERE](#) to set up and/or add funds to your child's **lunch account**.

Opening Day, September 6th: Student drop-off will begin at 7:35 a.m. on Wednesday, September 6th. This is a full day for students and staff. Dismissal will be at 2:23 p.m.

New Staff @ CDMS: Please join us in welcoming our new staff members to the CDMS Professional Learning Community. We have an outstanding group of dedicated and talented educators and are confident that they will make an immediate impact on our school community!

- **Jeremy Mercer:** Mr. Mercer joins the CDMS community as our new Assistant Principal. Mr. Mercer has been a teacher/supervisor at The Coastal Learning Center in Howell and a PE/Health teacher in the Freehold Borough School District. We are excited for Mr. Mercer to share his energy, experiences, and his passion for teaching and learning with our school community.
- **Tatiana Burgos:** Ms. Burgos joins the Cedar Drive staff from the Conover campus where she has taught for the past 17 years. We are very excited to welcome Ms. Burgos as the Spanish teacher at Cedar Drive.
- **Danielle Meyers:** Mrs. Meyers will be teaching 6th and 7th grade math starting in September. Mrs. Meyers has over 10 years of teaching experience and we look forward to her sharing her knowledge of middle school students and student-centered instructional practices with our school community.

New Students: We are very excited to welcome all of our new students and families to the Colts Neck Township School District! New student orientation is scheduled for Thursday, August 31st at 1:00 p.m. at Cedar Drive.

Back To School Night: We will host our Cedar Drive Back to School Night on Thursday, September 28th from 6 p.m.– 8 p.m.

Colts Neck PTO: The Colts Neck PTO is a valuable partner to the Colts Neck School District. WE appreciate their ongoing support of our students, staff, and programs. Please consider joining the PTO in support of our school community.

[Colts Neck PTO](#)

Whether you are enjoying the beaches of the Jersey Shore or packing up for a final summer road trip, we hope you enjoy the last few weeks of summer. On behalf of the entire Cedar Drive community, thank you for your ongoing support of our schools. We look forward to seeing you on the 6th!

Sincerely,

Colin Rigby and Jeremy Mercer