

May 15, 2015

Dear Eighth Grade Families,

Plans are in full swing for this year's ***Eighth Grade Graduation Activities***. We are hoping this will be an exciting time for our students, as they wrap up their time spent at Williams Middle School and move on to high school. In order for these events to be a success, we are in need of your support. Please read this entire letter carefully, as it contains all of the information pertaining to graduation events. You may respond to us with any questions you have. Please be assured that if you have any allergy/dietary concerns with regards to food, efforts will be made to accommodate your child. We are working closely with the school nurse, Mrs. Gartman.

Picnic Information

The eighth grade students at WMS will be having a class picnic at Bliss Park on Monday, June 22nd from 11:30-2:30. They will be walking to Bliss Park from WMS with chaperones (permission slip attached). All eighth grade students will be dismissed from Bliss Park when the picnic is over. They will also be allowed to return to WMS to collect their bikes, or be picked up by car.

Food and drink will be provided at the picnic. We will be grilling hamburgers and hot dogs. We will also be offering meat free for those who have that preference. There will also be watermelon, chips, and a special dessert treat.

The pool at Bliss Park will be open just for our students. We are paying to have 5 lifeguards on duty. Students can bring bathing suits, towels, and sunblock if they choose. There will also be a DJ for entertainments (games and music).

Reasonable efforts shall be taken to secure the safety of all students. Please be advised that there may be times when your child is unsupervised. It is expected that the students will act in a mature and responsible manner.

Graduation Ceremony

The eighth grade graduation ceremony will take place on Tuesday, June 23rd at 6:00 p.m. at Longmeadow High School. Students need to be dropped off at 5:15 to receive their flowers (in the cafeteria) and to take the class photo at 5:30. Parents/families do not need to stay at the drop off time. The doors to

the auditorium will be locked until 5:45. There are plenty of seats (including handicap accessible) and we will be having an optional raffle for priority seating. We have done this in the past, with much success. We are hoping to raffle multiple sets of seats (typically 4 or 6 seats).

Dress attire is as follows:

- Boys: dress pants, dress shirt, tie and jacket, dress shoes, no sneakers, please
- Girls: a dress (no strapless) or skirt, shoes or sandals, no sneakers please

Graduation Dinner Party

The graduation dinner party will be immediately following the ceremony. This will take place back at Williams Middle School from 7:00-9:00. There will be a check-in station and students must arrive no later than 7:15. Students, and faculty chaperones, will have dinner, dessert, and there will be a DJ for their entertainment. This is for students only and they must be picked up at 9:00. Please try to carpool and use the carline in lieu of parking.

Raffle Ticket Information

We are conducting a raffle for priority seating at the graduation ceremony. We will raffle multiple sets of seats. Please specify the number of seats you are hoping to “win” (6 maximum). One raffle ticket is \$2, or 3 tickets for \$5. The money we collect from the raffle will be used for a class gift to the school. Raffle winners will be notified the week prior to the ceremony. The winning reserved seats will be clearly marked with the family name.

All questions related to these activities can be directed to:

Anne Acquista - anneacquista@comcast.net

Debbie MacDonald - m1012@yahoo.com

Jean Fontaine (Assistant Principal) - jfontaine@longmeadow.k12.ma.us

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Permission Slips and Fees:

The fee for each child to participate in all of these events is \$30. A breakdown is listed below. We would like to have all permission slips and money collected no later than Monday, June 1st. Checks can be made payable to WMS PAC. Please return everything to the WMS office in an envelope addressed to "WMS PAC - 8th Grade".

Picnic

My child _____ has permission to attend the Eighth Grade Picnic at Bliss Park on Monday, June 22nd.

My child _____ will not be attending the picnic.

Signature Parent/Guardian

Graduation Ceremony:

Please circle one:

My child will attend the graduation ceremony at LHS on Tuesday, June 23rd at 6:00.

My child will not be participating in the graduation ceremony.

Graduation Dinner Party:

Please circle one:

My child will attend the graduation dinner party of WMS on June 23rd from 7-9.

My child will not be attending the graduation dinner party.

Signature Parent/Guardian

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Fees:

For all events: \$30 _____

Or

Picnic only: \$10 _____

Ceremony, Graduation Party: \$20 _____

Raffle Tickets (Optional):

Number of single raffle tickets @ \$2 each _____

Number of sets of three raffle tickets @ \$5 each _____

Number of seats you are hoping to win: _____

Name to be put on reserved seats _____

Grand Total Enclosed (check payable to WMS PAC): \$ _____

Volunteer Information:

In order to make this all happen, we are in need of many volunteers. Please read below and respond if you are able to make the commitment to help. Thank you very much!

I am able to help the day of the picnic (6/22) from 10-3 (we need 6-8 volunteers). Set up, grilling, clean up.

Name, contact information:

I am able to help on graduation day: getting balloons, setting up for dinner party (6/23) from 10-12 or 1-3 (we need 10-15 volunteers)

Name, contact information: _____

Notes/Special Instructions:

Thank you!

Anne Acquista
Debbie MacDonald
Jean Fontaine