



Ahern Middle School Newsletter



October 2019

Notes from the Principal

The start of the school year always brings a certain energy - a mixture of excitement and nervousness for students, teachers, and parents. As I begin my first year as principal, I can certainly relate to this! I would like to thank our students, staff, and parents for a great start to the school year. I am excited to work with teachers and families to meet the individual needs of every student, in every classroom, every day.

Dr. DeMarco, Dr. Frazier, and I met with each class on the first day of school to share with students our hopes and expectations for this school year. We explained to students that if all are kind to one another and all put forth their best effort every day, together we can ensure a positive middle school experience for all students. We explained the importance of attendance and being on time to school so as not to miss a minute of their learning. We encouraged students to get involved in after school activities at the Ahern. These can be found on the activities calendar on the Ahern website and are a great way to connect with other students and enrich learning.

Here at the Ahern Middle School, we understand students will make mistakes, in their learning and even maybe sometimes with their peers. We believe wholeheartedly that we have a responsibility to help them learn from those mistakes, to make them right again, and to develop the skills they need to avoid repeating the mistakes. We look forward to partnering with families to do this hard work together so we can give all students their best chance for success in middle school.

We look to our 8th grade students to be the student leaders in our building. We encourage them to connect with younger students and to set a strong, positive example for all students. Our 7th grade students are experiencing a bit of a transition this year as they move upstairs and change classes for every subject for the first time. We encourage them to connect with trusted adults in the building who will guide them through this transition and answer any questions they might have. Now semi-pros at middle school, our 6th grade students are the student leaders of downstairs. We know they will be positive role models to our youngest students. The 5th grade students have made a smooth transition to the middle school and are in full swing with their learning. We are so happy to welcome them to the Ahern! I hope they will come to love it here as much as I have.

As always, please contact us any time with any questions you might have about your child's middle school experience. To see additional updates about happenings at the Ahern, please see our teacher websites, the Homework Hub for grades 7 and 8 on the Ahern website, the Daily 2 transcript found on our website, follow us on Twitter @AhernMiddle #TheBoro02035, and be sure you have registered your email address with us to receive my weekly email updates. If you are having difficulty accessing PowerSchool to see your student's grades and assignments, please contact our guidance office and they will help you with your account.

I'm looking forward to a fabulous year with your children!

Kindest Regards,

Kerryn Frazier



C O U N S E L O R S '

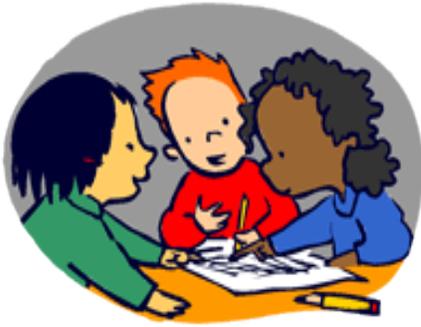
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Who is my School Counselor And How Can They Help?

We are fortunate to have 3 licensed school counselors here at the Ahern Middle School to work

with all of our students.

Ms. Lauren Bailey works with all students in House 5A and all 8th graders. Ms. Kirsten Howden works with all students in 5B and 5D and all 6th graders. Ms. Melissa Henry works with all students in House 5C and all 7th grade students. Each of our school counselors have a Master's Degree in Counseling and several years of experience. They are able to offer academic, social, and emotional support to all students. School counselors work with teachers, parents, administrators, outside counseling agencies, and other stakeholders, in addition to working with students. If you feel that your child is in need of support from their school counselor, please contact them.

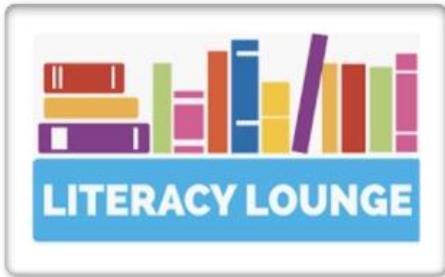


Student Council is in the middle of gearing up for what we are sure will be another successful year! The Ahern Student Council is a group for students who are leaders in the school and community. Throughout the year, we will be organizing various events for the school and service projects for the community. Elections for the 8th grade officer positions and homeroom representatives are underway. We will have our first general

meeting on Wednesday, October 9th for homeroom reps as well as any other students who are interested in becoming more involved in our school. The induction ceremony will take place on Thursday, October 17th from 5:30-7. We will begin with a brief ceremony in the auditorium and a potluck dinner will follow. We are looking forward to getting started planning our first events of the year!

Your Student Council Advisors,

Ms. Campellone, Ms. Ricci, and Ms. Walsh



We're off to an exciting year at the Ahern!

Students in 5th and 6th grade ELA classrooms are launching their Readers' and Writers' Workshops while 7th graders have started the year with a choice novel study unit. Not to be outdone, our 8th graders hit the ground running at their very first ELA classes through McGraw Hill's StudySync Blasts that helped them get to know each other and allowed them to start interacting with this new-to-them technology which will enhance their ELA experience this year.

November: The Ahern's Annual Scholastic Book Fair will run Nov. 20-26. Parents can shop online during that time or at the Ahern during parent teacher conferences on Monday and Tuesday, November 25-26.

We are successful only because of our amazing volunteers! Contact me if you'd like to help, or check out our fair's website for online shopping and eWallet options: <https://bit.ly/2kMkwZC>

This Winter: The Ahern's 2nd Annual Book Swap

In an effort to get awesome books into the hands of all of our students, we hold a Book Swap where students, teachers, and families can donate gently used books. In return, students are given **Book Bucks** that they can use to buy "new" books! It's a great way to clean off those bookshelves and get your child excited about reading!

***If you are interested in volunteering, please contact me with
your name & email address.***

Thank you for your support!

Miss Breda Annis, M.Ed. Reading
Literacy Specialist (Grades 5-8)
John J. Ahern Middle School

Email: annisb@foxborough.k12.ma.us

Webpage: <https://bannis.weebly.com/>

What is W.E.B.?

WEB stands for “Where Everybody Belongs.” It is a middle school orientation and transition program for our 5th graders that aims to make them feel comfortable throughout their first year at the Ahern Middle School. Built on the belief that students can help students succeed, the program trains mentors from the 8th grade class to be WEB Leaders. As positive role models, WEB Leaders are mentors who guide the 5th graders in discovering what it takes to be successful during their transition to the Ahern.



Studies show that if students have a positive experience their first year in middle school, their chances for success increase dramatically. WEB provides the structure for our 5th graders to receive support and guidance from 8th grade leaders who have been through the challenges middle school poses and who understand that the transition to a larger school can be overwhelming at times.

WEB is a yearlong program with four components that contribute to its success:

- 1. 5th Grade Orientation** - Our amazing group of 8th grade WEB Leaders started building the mentor relationship with the graduating class of 2027, better known as our fabulous 5th graders, on August 26th before school even started! They shared information about how to be successful at the Ahern through a series of games and activities designed to establish communication, foster interpersonal connections, and develop trust within their small groups. Smiles and laughter abounded! For a little insight into this exciting day, check out the following link:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YoE357lg3qw&feature=youtu.be>
- 2. Academic Follow Ups** - Leaders support 5th grade academic success and character development through classroom activities.
- 3. Social Follow Ups** - WEB Leaders and their 5th graders will connect outside the classroom at social events to increase student engagement and promote positive school climate.
- 4. Leader Initiated Contacts** - WEB Leaders are also encouraged to connect with their 5th graders on a more individual, informal basis throughout the year.

Thank you for your support of this incredible program!

~WEB Coordinators (Mrs. Lauren Bailey, Ms. Leigh Ricci, and Ms. Breda Annis)

Nurses' Note

Ahern School Nurse: (508)543-1646

Ahern School Nurse FAX: 508-543-1654

Jen Rosenberg: Rosenbergj@foxborough.k12.ma.us

Nicole Quin: Quinn@foxborough.k12.ma.us



Welcome back to the 2019-20 school year! We hope everyone enjoyed a restful and relaxing summer vacation.

We ask that you keep in mind our sick policy (see below) when deciding to keep your child home or send him/her to school. As always, we ask if your child sustains an injury/concussion and needs to be excused from wellness class, that a medical note be sent in to school with your child. All notes can be faxed directly to **508-543-1654**. We will also need a note from the doctor to allow your child to return to physical activity.

7TH GRADE PARENTS: Please make sure to send in an updated physical dated no earlier than September 1, 2018 and verification of second dose of varicella and Tdap vaccine per state law requirements. This documentation was due prior to the start of the school year; please make every effort to contact your pediatrician to have these documents faxed to 508-543-1654 at your earliest convenience.

If you are a parent of a child with a life-threatening allergy and still have not submitted the necessary items including the epi pen, Emergency Healthcare Plan, parent authorization and MD orders please do so as soon as possible. We have made multiple attempts to obtain these documents. *Students will not be allowed to attend upcoming field trips if our office does not have your child's epi pen and forms.

SICK POLICY:

- A child should be kept at home for a fever of 100.5 degrees or higher and may not return to school until fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications.
- If your child is on an antibiotic for an infectious disease (I.e. strep throat), he/she must be on the medication for a full 24 hours before returning to school.
- If your child has had a vomiting/ diarrhea episode, please keep them home for a full 24 hours prior to returning to school.
- Children should not be in school with any rash that has not been identified by a doctor and deemed not contagious.
- Please let the school nurses know if your child has had strep throat, chicken pox, fifth disease, flu, pneumonia, pertussis, conjunctivitis, or any other infectious disease. We monitor these illnesses closely in the school setting. **CONFIDENTIALITY IS ALWAYS MAINTAINED.**

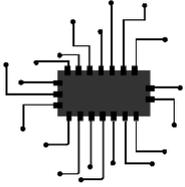
We ask that you strictly adhere to these rules as we have several immunocompromised (weakened immune system) students in the school.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns! We thank you in advance for your help keeping our students healthy this year!

Jen Rosenberg & Nicole Quin, Ahern School Nurses (508)543-1646

Rosenbergj@foxborough.k12.ma.us

quin@foxborough.k12.ma.us



Computer Science Innovators and Makers

with Mrs. Isaksen

Formerly known as Applied Technology (App. Tech.)

We are now using a company called *Project Lead the Way (PLTW)* to teach Computer Science for all 7th and 8th grade students. The module students are studying is called “Innovators and Makers.” This module teaches students about what Computer Science is, how to integrate programming with physical components including micro: bit circuit cards while collaborating with other students. So far students have created teams, designed group posters resembling what they think a Computer Scientist looks like and what some characteristics might be. Students have now logged on to www.pltw.org to start learning about how programming relates to their real lives and at the end of semester 1, they will be creating a shareable project that will either help people, animals or their community.

Project Lead the Way Gateway Sparks Engagement and Illuminates Possibilities

Middle school is a time of exploration, a time when students are figuring out what they’re passionate about today and how that relates to who they’ll become tomorrow.



[Project Lead the Way \(PLTW\)](#) empowers students to lead their own discovery. The hands-on program boosts classroom engagement and excitement, drives collaboration, and inspires “aha! moments” and deep comprehension. And as students engage in [PLTW’s activities in computer science, engineering, and biomedical science](#), they see a range of paths and possibilities they can look forward to in high school and beyond. PLTW classes now being offered at the John J. Ahern Middle School include:

Medical Detectives

Students play the role of real-life medical detectives as they analyze genetic testing results to diagnose disease and study DNA evidence found at a “crime scene.” They solve medical mysteries through hands-on projects and slabs, investigate how to measure and interpret vital signs, and learn how the systems of the human body work together to maintain health.



Design and Modeling

Students apply the design process to solve problems and understand the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. Using design software, students create a virtual image of their designs and produce a portfolio to showcase their innovative solutions.

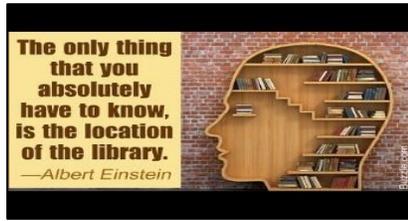


Green Architecture

Today’s students have grown up in an age of “green” choices. In this unit, students learn how to apply this concept to the fields of architecture and construction by exploring dimensioning, measuring, and architectural sustainability as they design affordable housing units using Autodesk’s 3D architectural design software.

Computer Science for Innovators and Makers

Throughout the unit, students learn about programming for the physical world by blending hardware design and software development, allowing students to discover computer science concepts and skills by creating personally relevant, tangible, and shareable projects.



Library Notes

THE FAST START

During the first 12 school days, 38 classroom visits resulted in close to 1,000 books being borrowed from the Ahern Library. One of our goals is to maintain this pace.

Another goal (and parents can help with this) is to encourage as many 7th and 8th grade students as possible to use the library during their 20 minutes. For grade 8 - 12:05 to 12:30, for grade 7 – 12:35 to 1:00. The library is well stocked, very quiet, friendly, and always staffed with someone to help. A great place to read, study, or locate research materials.

Directed study (a homework club) is held in the library each afternoon from 2:30 to 3:30. A teacher is always available at the library front desk to assist with homework. The librarian is always there to guide students through the collections.



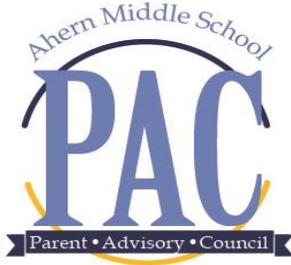
The Ahern Book Club begins on September 30th in the library classroom and will meet every Monday. All are welcome from 2:30 to 3:30. During our first meeting we will draw a connection between Harry Potter and David Copperfield and read from a Theo Boone novel by John Grisham.

Bob Rossetti (508) 543-1610 ext. 54630

High School Open House

On Thursday, October 17, 2019, Foxborough High School will be hosting an open house for current seventh and eighth grade students and their parents. The orientation program will provide an opportunity to visit and learn more about the school; the curricula, school organizations, and athletic programs offered at Foxborough High School.

The program will run from 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. It will begin in room 122 (across from the 1st floor media center), with a brief presentation by the administration. The remainder of the evening will allow you to meet with department chairpersons, guidance counselors, administrators, and the Athletic Director. Information regarding various athletic teams and extra-curricular clubs will be available as well. The goal is to have all your questions answered, so that you and your child can feel comfortable and make an informed decision about the educational opportunities that Foxborough High School provides.



2019-2020 Board Members

President: Sarah LiDonni
Treasurer: Michelle Thackston
Secretary: Monica Fisler (interim)

WELCOME BACK!

Welcome to the new school year! With your help, we had an amazing 2018-2019 for the Ahern PAC through fundraising and grants. The Ahern PAC is pleased to announce that we will be funding all current field trips, buses, and in-school programs. The field trips and in school programs are as follows:

Grade 5 - Vernal Pool program at Moose Hill and Mad Scientist program in house

Grade 6 - Ropes Course at Camp Finberg, Earthworks program in-house, Young Audience of Massachusetts program in-house, Great Skate of America

Grade 7 - Trinity Rep Theater (A Christmas Carol), Camp Everwood, JFK Library and Museum (free admission, cost of buses only)

Grade 8 - Canobie Lake

The Ahern PAC also funds all student agendas, traveling art display, and the 8th grade promotional party. Field trips are subject to change based on school curriculum.



WE ARE ON FACEBOOK LIVE

We enjoy seeing everyone at the meetings, but if you can't make it, you can still participate. Have a question? Submit it LIVE so we can discuss it! Or watch the recorded meeting afterward.

<https://www.facebook.com/ahernpac>

IMPORTANT DATES

October 11th – Professional Development Day (No School)

October 14th – Holiday (No School)

October 16th at 7pm - PAC Meeting

October 17th 5:30pm-7pm - Student Council Induction

October 17th 6-7:30 - 7th & 8th Grade High School Open House

November 20th at 7pm - PAC Meeting

November 25th & 26th – Parent/Teacher Conferences

December 18th at 7pm - PAC Meeting

Ahern School Friendship Directory Online

Each year Ahern PAC puts together a school Friendship Directory. If you would like your child/children included in this directory please complete the form located on our website <http://www.ahernpac.com/ahern-friendship-directory/>. The Friendship Directory will be available online and each parent will receive a password to access the Directory. Should you have questions, please email ahernfriendshipbook@gmail.com. Please note email addresses from the Friendship Directory are to be used only for school/PAC-related correspondence.



!!VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!



PAC SECRETARY

Contact Sarah LiDonni at rahrage@aol.com if you are interested.

HELPING HANDS

If you can help once a month in the copy room on Tuesday or Thursday mornings, please reach out to Connie Gonsalves at cvcg812@msn.com. This is a big help to the teachers and just a small commitment.

ROOM PARENTS NEEDED

Room parents for 7th & 8th mostly forward PAC emails when needed, classroom emails when teacher needs something, and Winter Carnival Basket Coordinator. Most often Room Parents at these grades do not go into the classroom. A huge Thank You to our Room Parents!

7th Grade: Mr. Scharman
Ms. Ready
Ms. Sabonis
Mr. Masciarelli

8th Grade: Ms. Lai
Mr. Williams
Ms. Tetreault
Ms. Rochon
Ms. Ricci

Please contact Connie Gonsalves cvcg812@msn.com

WARRIOR WALK

We need a Chair for this fundraiser. Please contact Sarah LiDonni at rahrage@aol.com if you are interested

2019-2020 FUNDRAISERS

Current Fundraisers



Fall Family Photo Shoot by Faye Joyce at Borderlands State Park

Mini sessions October 20th 11am-4pm. Sign up using the Link Below. \$125 per session, all proceeds go to the PAC.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0c44aead2da64-fall>



Touchstone Crystal

Annie Stow is donating 20% of proceeds from online sales to the PAC or \$50 for each home party booked with her! Sale runs October 21- November 11.

<https://sites.touchstonecrystal.com/sites/anniestow/e/7TBX4JP1>

General PAC Donation



No amount is TOO SMALL; it all adds up. This is an ongoing donation drive.

Three ways to give:

- 1) send in your donation in envelope marked *AHERN PAC GENERAL DONATION*
- 2) PayPal <https://www.paypal.me/ahernpac>
- 3) Venmo to [@President-AhernPAC](https://www.venmo.com/@President-AhernPAC)

Box Tops Contest Has Begun!



THE BOX TOP CONTEST IS HERE!

Send in those Box Tops to your child's homeroom. Homeroom with the most wins a PIZZA PARTY! Thank you for your continued support!

There is a Box Tops Collection Box in the Main Office. Happy Clipping!

Contest for 5th Grade running now – other grades TBD!

Upcoming Fundraisers



Let's Get Flocked – Coming soon!

Flocks arrive when kids are at school. Pay to send a flock or buy insurance to keep the flock away! Flocks stay 2-4 days then migrate.

BOON SUPPLY



Coming in November 2019

Just in time for the Holidays! Be on the lookout for Boon Supply Catalog packets at the end of the month! There will be all new items and patterns along with all-time favorites! *Boon Supply was formerly known as Mixed Bag.*



Coming in January 2020

Our biggest community winter gathering for games, food, raffles & fun!



Warrior Walk: TBD

Our 3rd annual walk for Enrichment & Charity.

Ongoing Fundraisers

Stop and Shop A+ School Rewards



Please remember to register your Stop & Shop Rewards card or update your school choice. Go to www.stopandshop.com, under My Account > Rewards > Rewards & Savings Tab. Search for John J. Ahern School and add it!

Amazon Smile



When you shop at Amazon, start with **SMILE** at www.SMILE.Amazon.com. Simply choose our school as the charity, and a percentage of your shopping dollars are donated by Amazon to the school. It's that easy!

shopwithscrip.com



Scripts Gift Cards!! DETAILS COMING SOON! LOOK IN BACKPACKS -

Information just can home in your students' backpacks – Orange Paper. Here you simply shop for gift cards like you normally would but use this program. A percentage is donated to the school by the participating company. **Cards are available in various denominations for various stores.** It's a great way to get end of year gifts for the teachers and staff! Place orders at <https://www.shopwithscrip.com>. USE ENROLLMENT CODE: A2631EBD57L89
Gift Card Program Coordinator, Ellen Hawrylcw, echawrylcw@gmail.com

October

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>
<p>See Ahern website for updates to Activity Calendars</p>	<p>1 Day 3</p> <p>Directed Study Library Jazz Band Gr 6,7,8 Music Drama Club Auditorium Lego Robotics Gr 6,7,8 Rm 232 Beginning Jazz Music Cross Country Gr 7,8 Track Recycling Main Stairs NHS Tutoring Rm 101</p>	<p>2 Day 4</p> <p>Directed Study Library Drama Club Auditorium Ahern Singers Gr 6,7, 8 Chorus Minecraft Lab B</p>	<p>3 Day 5</p> <p>Directed Study Library Ultimate Frisbee Back Field Mindfulness/Crafts Rm 206 Girls Who Code Rm 254 Chess Club Rm 208 Shorthand/Steno Club Rm 251 Cross Country Gr 7,8 Track</p>	<p>4 Day 6</p> <p>No After School Activities No Late Buses</p>
	<p>7 Day 1</p> <p>Directed Study Library Practice Club Music Ahern Treble Gr 5,6 Chorus Literature Circle Library Art Club Rm 157 Mindful Monday Gr 5,6 Rm 112 Board Games Gr 5,6 Rm 125</p>	<p>8 Day 2</p> <p>Directed Study Library Jazz Band Gr 6,7,8 Music Drama Club Auditorium Lego Robotics Gr 6,7,8 Rm 232 Beginning Jazz Music Cross Country Gr 7,8 Track Recycling Main Stairs NHS Tutoring Rm 101</p>	<p>9 Day 3</p> <p>Directed Study Library Drama Club Auditorium Ahern Singers Gr 6,7, 8 Chorus Student Council Rm 138 Minecraft Lab B</p>	<p>10 Day 4</p> <p>Directed Study Library Ultimate Frisbee Back Field Mindfulness/Crafts Rm 206 Girls Who Code Rm 254 Chess Club Rm 208 Shorthand/Steno Club Rm 251 Cross Country Gr 7,8 Track</p>
<p>14</p> <p>Columbus Day No School</p> 	<p>15 Day 5</p> <p>Directed Study Library Jazz Band Gr 6,7,8 Music Drama Club Auditorium Lego Robotics Gr 6,7,8 Rm 232 Beginning Jazz Music Cross Country Gr 7,8 Track Recycling Main Stairs NHS Tutoring Rm 101</p>	<p>16 Day 6</p> <p>Directed Study Library Drama Club Auditorium Ahern Singers Gr 6,7, 8 Chorus Minecraft Lab B</p>	<p>17 Day 1</p> <p>No After School Activities No Late Buses</p>	<p>18 Day 2</p> <p>No After School Activities No Late Buses</p>
<p>21 Day 3</p> <p>Directed Study Library Practice Club Music Ahern Treble Gr 5,6 Chorus Literature Circle Library Art Club Rm 157 Mindful Monday Gr 5,6 Rm 112 Board Games Gr 5,6 Rm 125</p>	<p>22 Day 4</p> <p>Directed Study Library Jazz Band Gr 6,7,8 Music Drama Club Auditorium Lego Robotics Gr 6,7,8 Rm 232 Beginning Jazz Music Cross Country Gr 7,8 Track Recycling Main Stairs NHS Tutoring Rm 101</p>	<p>23 Day 5</p> <p>Directed Study Library Drama Club Auditorium Ahern Singers Gr 6,7, 8 Chorus Minecraft Lab B Student Council Rm 138</p>	<p>24 Day 6</p> <p>Directed Study Library Ultimate Frisbee Back Field Mindfulness/Crafts Rm 206 Girls Who Code Rm 254 Chess Club Rm 208 Shorthand/Steno Club Rm 251 Cross Country Gr 7,8 Track</p>	<p>25 Day 1</p> <p>No After School Activities No Late Buses</p>
<p>28 Day 2</p> <p>Directed Study Library Practice Club Music Ahern Treble Gr 5,6 Chorus Literature Circle Library Art Club Rm 157 Mindful Monday Rm 112 Board Games Gr 5,6 Rm 125</p>	<p>29 Day 3</p> <p>Directed Study Library Jazz Band Gr 6,7,8 Music Drama Club Auditorium Lego Robotics Gr 6,7,8 Rm 232 Cross Country Gr 7,8 Track Beginning Jazz Music Recycling Main Stairs NHS Tutoring Rm 101</p>	<p>30 Day 4</p> <p>Directed Study Library Drama Club Auditorium Ahern Singers Gr 6,7, 8 Chorus Minecraft Lab B</p>	<p>31 Day 5</p> <p>Directed Study Library Ultimate Frisbee Back Field Mindfulness/Crafts Room 206 Girls Who Code Room 254 Chess Club Room 208 Shorthand/Steno Club Room 251 Ahern Cross Country Gr 7,8 Track</p>	<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <p>2019</p> </div>

October

PARENT CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Day 3	2 Day 4	3 Day 5	4 Day 6	5
6	7 Day 1	8 Day 2	9 Day 3	10 Day 4	11 Professional Development No School	12
13	14  Columbus Day No School	15 Day 5	16 Day 6 PAC Meeting 7:00	17 Day 1 Staff Meeting No Late Buses Student Council Induction Ceremony 5:30-7:00	18 Day 2	19
20	21 Day 3	22 Day 4	23 Day 5	24 Day 6	25 Day 1	26
27	28 Day 2	29 Day 3	30 Day 4	31 Day 5		

2019