

# Midland Elementary School Parent Handbook



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# **WELCOME TO MIDLAND SCHOOL**

## **Midland School**

Midland School is an outstanding elementary school located in Rye, New York. In 2001, we were recognized by the United States Department of Education as a Blue Ribbon Award Winner for excellence in leadership, teaching, curriculum, student achievement, parent involvement and community support. Today, this success continues in an environment that is challenging, yet nurturing for its students.

Our campus is not only conveniently situated in this suburban community, it is also carefully maintained. We accommodate close to 600 children of various abilities and backgrounds in approximately 30 classrooms. In addition to our auditorium, media center and gymnasium, there are rooms for art, music, enrichment and remediation programs. There are four computers in each classroom and over 25 computers in our computer lab. In addition, there are multiple laptop carts and an iPad carts for student use in the classroom. There are SMART Boards in every classroom. The school itself is always bright and colorfully decorated with the work of children. Our students have access to two separate outdoor play areas as well as basketball courts and baseball fields. Even though our building seems large, the faculty works hard to maintain a “neighborhood” feel to our school.

Our teachers have high expectations, yet are caring and willing to provide appropriate programs for children at all levels of learning. The instruction provided to the students is characterized by a child-centered philosophy that recognizes that each individual is unique. Our teachers have a wide variety of backgrounds, experiences and personalities and come to the classroom with multiple teaching methods, techniques and styles. However, each one shares the goal of success for our students. Teachers are constantly working not only to differentiate for the needs of each child, but also on their own professional development. Our staff takes full advantage of opportunities to attend courses and workshops that add to their repertoire of teaching skills. The spirit and collegiality among the staff result in a sense of openness, a high degree of innovation and a superior level of enthusiasm in teaching.

Our students are caring and involved members of the community in which they live. Not only do the children of Midland strive for academic success, but many are involved in other endeavors as well. From drama to sports to volunteer work, the children in our community bring a sense of pride to the teachers and parents that love and care for them. Our classrooms are full of students that are sensitive to the needs of others and are fortunate to be able to share with their classmates a richness of culture and tradition. In addition, our students are some of the top performing in the state.

## MISSION STATEMENT

*The mission of the Rye City School District, in partnership with the community, is to ensure that every student becomes a life-long learner, capable of adapting and thriving in a global environment as a self-reliant and socially responsible citizen by providing an engaging, challenging, personalized program that maximizes the individual's talents and potential.*

Our goal at Midland School is to create a positive environment for learning in which responsibility is encouraged, accomplishments are valued, and individual differences are respected. This requires cooperation among everyone in the educational process-- administrators, teachers, teacher aides, staff, students, and parents.

## COMMUNICATING WITH MIDLAND

Involving the family in each student's education is one of Midland's priorities. Through letters, special programs, and the efforts of our Parent Teacher Organization, the Midland community is informed of and included in their child's education. Our faculty and parents work together well beyond the conventional school day providing the students with programs that enhance learning and showcase our accomplishments. We maintain an open door policy enabling parents easy access to teachers and other staff members. Midland School is successful because we all work together to promote an ideal academic and social environment for the children of our school.

### Phone

Phone extensions for the Midland Faculty are published each year in the Midland Directory. Key phone numbers to keep handy include Rye City School District's Main Number 914-967-6100

Location	Phone Extension
Midland Main Office	Ext. 4900
Principal's Office	Ext. 4908
Assistant Principal's Office	Ext. 4201
Front Desk (Absence Line)	Ext. 4904
Nurse's Office	Ext. 4930

### E-Mail

All email addresses in the Rye City School District follow the same format:

[Last.name.First.name@ryeschools.org](mailto:Last.name.First.name@ryeschools.org)

**A key email address to have available is the Midland Absence email address:**  
[absenceMid@ryeschools.org](mailto:absenceMid@ryeschools.org).

## **Website**

The Rye City School District operates a website with a great deal of useful information about the school district. Through the District website, Midland School and the Midland PTO operate web pages that allow staff and the PTO to connect with Midland families and the Rye community.

The school district website is a useful tool for calendar, cafeteria, health, and Board of Education information. The school district calendar is in a printable or downloadable format where parents can customize their family calendar according to which school(s) their children attend within the Rye City School District. Cafeteria menus, health forms, and the latest Board of Education information are easily available.

The Midland School and PTO web pages include teacher pages where individual teachers can post information on class events, studies and field trips. School-wide pages include health office and cafeteria information. The school song and the parent handbook are also available. PTO web pages include contact information for the PTO executive board and committees, information on upcoming PTO events, and information about Back to School Night.

## **Midland Directory**

Each year, the Midland Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) publishes a directory with contact information for all Midland faculty and Midland families. The directory is only available to and used by Midland families and staff. Families have the option of making their home address, phone number, cell number, and e-mail addresses available to other families in the Midland School. In addition, the directory includes class lists and phone and e-mail contact information for staff and PTO committee members. The Directory is an invaluable resource for parents in contacting not only Midland School, but also keeping in touch with other families in the Midland community. Copies of the Midland Directory are available each year at Back to School Night. A family fee to join the PTO also includes a copy of the Midland Directory. After Back to School Night, the Midland Directory can be purchased from the Midland School front office.

## **Midland Express**

The Midland Express is a weekly newsletter distributed via e-mail to all Midland families. The Principal's Message is a regular feature of the Midland Express and provides additional information on what is happening in the halls of Midland School. Furthermore, key dates are always listed in the Midland Express to ensure that all families are current with school information.

The Midland Express Editor can be contacted at [MidlandNews@gmail.com](mailto:MidlandNews@gmail.com) to ensure that your e-mail address is included in the distribution list. E-mail information provided for the Midland Directory will always be included in the distribution list for the Midland Express newsletter. In addition, the Midland Express Editor sends out a weekly email with relevant community news. Community news information should be sent to [RyeNews@hotmail.com](mailto:RyeNews@hotmail.com).

## **Placement Letters**

Shortly before the school year begins, each Midland family receives a placement letter from Midland School, listing your child's teacher.

## **School Supplies**

A list of school supplies is provided at the end of each school year for the upcoming year, and is also available online.

## **Back-to-School Night**

Each year in late September or early October, Midland School hosts a Back-to-School Night for parents of Midland students. Teachers present information on the upcoming school year, including curriculum plans and homework policies. Parents have the opportunity to meet their child's teacher and to visit their child's classroom. Midland directories are generally available at Back-to-School Night, with a paid membership in the Parent Teacher Organization.

## **Parent-Teacher Conferences**

Report cards are issued three times a year – in November/December, February/March and at the end of the school year. Parent-teacher conferences are scheduled for November/December and early March. The end of each marking period affords teachers an opportunity to review, reflect and reevaluate goals for the children for the upcoming months. Studies have shown that children whose parents are involved in their education do better in school. Every time you attend a parent/teacher conference you learn more about your child's academic success. Getting to know the teacher and hearing his or her views on your child's progress helps your child succeed.

Before the conference:

- **Talk with your child.** Find out his or her favorite subjects and activities. Ask if there are any concerns that he or she would like you to discuss with the teacher.
- **Decide in advance the questions you will want to ask.** Write them down and do your best to pin point specific areas of concern.
- **Review assignments.** Are there areas where your child is successful or others where they might need extra support?
- **Check whether your child should attend.** In most cases, conferences are strictly between parents and teacher. Please make child care arrangements accordingly.

At the conference:

- **Be on time.** The conference schedule is tight, so teachers need all parents to be on time. If something comes up, notify the teacher as soon as possible. Try to reschedule even

if it must be a telephone conference.

- **Remember that conferences are brief.** A typical meeting lasts about 20 minutes. In addition, the teacher may have some items to discuss with you. If you need additional time, ask for a follow up session.
- **Keep an open mind.** These conferences are meant to help you understand your child's school performance. Be ready to discuss your child's strengths **and** weaknesses with the teacher.
- **Make plans.** Take notes and record tips or suggestions that are given. Working together with the teacher will help your child succeed.
- **Be reasonable.** A teacher has many students in their class. Have realistic expectations about the amount of special attention the teacher can give to your child.
- **Be positive and specific.** The more information that you can give your child's teacher, the easier it will be to develop a plan of action to address any needs or causes for concern.

After the conference:

- **Tell your child.** Meet with your child and discuss the teacher's comments. Remember to praise all the things your child is doing well and pass along the teacher's compliments. If you need to, talk about the areas that you and the teacher will be working on with your child to help him/her improve. After the conference is an excellent time to set goals for the remainder of the school year.
- **Follow up.** Let your child's teacher know that you are following through on what was discussed and that you'd like some feedback on how things are progressing in the classroom.

Conferences are not routinely scheduled by the teachers of special subjects such as art and band but feel free to contact these teachers should you have any questions or concerns. Schools and teachers truly value the interest and opinions of parents.

## **Emergency Contact Systems**

If the school must be closed early because of emergency situations or inclement weather during the school day, the emergency notification system will be initiated. The system contracted by the District, will call every school family within minutes, using telephone numbers provided by each family on the information survey. It is extremely important that you inform the school promptly if your telephone number changes so that you can be properly notified. This is each family's responsibility. If a wrong or old telephone number is in the system, you will not be notified.

If you give your permission for your child to be sent home alone, please make sure that he/she knows how to get home alone and what to do if no one is home to greet him/her. No child will be sent home alone without written permission if schools are dismissed earlier than scheduled.

If schools are closed or a delayed opening is necessary because of inclement weather or other emergency situations, information will be available as early as possible on Channel 77, via a recorded message on the District's voice mail system (967-6100), and at the Current News scroll of the District's web site. The Midland Express will send out an e-mail

notification of weather delay or closing in the morning. In addition households that have registered for the District's School Messenger system will receive a text and voice message alerting them to the delay or closure.

Area radio stations and some television stations broadcast emergency information specifically for the Rye City School District. (Blind Brook-Rye, Port Chester-Rye and Rye Neck information is NOT relevant to the Rye City School District or Rye Public Schools.)

## **Excellence Team**

The Midland School Excellence Team allows teachers and parents to participate in planning and decision-making in ten specified areas of school life, which have been identified by the Rye City School District as the following:

- Attendance and Discipline
- Communication
- Community Involvement
- Curriculum
- Motivation of Faculty & Staff
- Motivation of Students
- Parental Involvement
- School Climate
- School Procedures & Practices
- Student Achievement

The Midland Excellence Team consists of the principal, assistant principal, three teachers (elected by the faculty), one community representative (chosen by the principal), and three parents. The PTO Co-Presidents share one of the parent seats; the other two parents, chosen in a school-wide election held each spring, serve overlapping two-year terms.

The Excellence Team meets a minimum of four times during the school year. Meeting dates and times are announced in advance. A parent representative may report on Excellence Team issues at PTO meetings. Parents may raise issues to be discussed by the Excellence Team by means of signed letters submitted to the Excellence Team representatives. Excellence Teams were established at each school by the Rye City School District in response to the Compact for Learning adopted by the New York State Board of Regents in 1990.

The Excellence Team is not part of the PTO, although the PTO Co-Presidents sit on the Team.

## **CODE OF CONDUCT**

It is important that the children act as socially responsible school citizens by:

- Respecting the rights of others.
- Being polite to everyone in the school.
- Always using proper language.
- Obeying teachers and teacher aides.
- Not fighting or playing roughly.
- Walking quietly in the building.
- Not teasing or insulting others.

## **Teachers**

Teachers will help create a positive environment conducive for learning by:

- Starting the school day promptly at 8:40 a.m.
- Creating a supportive learning environment.
- Providing an organizational plan for the school day.
- Establishing the expectations for homework assignments.
- Assisting the students in following the school rules and maintaining high standards of behavior.
- Communicating with parents.

## **Parents**

Parents will help create a positive environment for learning.

- Parents are responsible for the safety of their children on school grounds before 8:15 a.m. and after 3:15 p.m.
- Children should have a regular quiet time and place to do homework.
- Children should read on a daily basis.
- Television, video games, and computer games should have reasonable limits.
- Regular bed times ensure that children are well-rested.
- Children should dress appropriately for inclement weather.

## **Students**

- Take responsibility for their learning.
- Understand and adhere to the rules of the classroom and the school.
- Discuss daily school work with parents.
- Complete and return homework on time.
- Limit their time with television, video games, and computer games.
- Act as socially responsible school citizens by knowing and following the Code of Conduct.

## **Dress Code**

Students must be dressed appropriately for school. The responsibility for student dress, personal cleanliness, and general appearance shall rest with individual students and parents. However, the Board of Education requires students to attend school in appropriate dress that meets health and safety standards and does not interfere with the learning process.

Specifically, students may not wear the following:

- Hats in the school building or classroom (unless worn for religious or medical reasons).
- Clothing such as tube tops, halter tops, and cropped tops.
- Pants or skirts shorter than 4 inches above the knee.
- Footwear that is a safety hazard such as “flip flops,” platform shoes, or high heeled shoes.

The principal, teachers, and other designated personnel have the authority to require a student to change his/her attire should it be deemed inappropriate.

## **Absence and Tardiness**

If your child is absent, you must provide a note from you or a doctor explaining why your child was not in school. This note can be handwritten or emailed to the Midland absence address: [absenceMid@ryeschools.org](mailto:absenceMid@ryeschools.org). If you would like to have your child's homework available to pick up in the office, please include that information in your morning email, or call the office before 10:00 am. If your child is contagious, please contact the school nurse as soon as you can. If your child has a fever, please keep your child home for 24 hours.

If your child arrives at school after 8:45 am, they must enter the school through the front door and report to the security desk. At the security desk they will receive a "tardy pass". The child will bring the "tardy pass" to their teacher. The "tardy pass" enables the school to account for those present and to maintain the safety of each child.

## **School Rules**

All school rules should be followed everywhere in the school, including hallways, bathrooms, the cafeteria, the auditorium, and on the playground.

General School Rules - Students should:

- Follow the teachers', substitutes', or teacher aides' instructions.
- Remain on school grounds at all times.
- Not chew gum or bring candy to school.
- Line up and enter the building quietly.
- Only wear hats during arrival, recess, and dismissal.
- Not bring toy weapons to school.
- Store cellular phones and other personal devices in their backpacks during the school day.

### Auditorium

- Food/drink is not allowed in the auditorium.
- Sit properly in their seats.
- Enter the auditorium quietly and sit appropriately.

### Gymnasium

- Sneakers must be worn.
- All safety rules must be followed.
- No food or drink is allowed.

### Halls

- Walk quietly in single file on the right hand side in the hallway.
- Student work and exhibits should be observed, but not touched.

### Bathrooms

- Respect the privacy of other individuals in the bathroom.
- Open bathroom doors slowly.
- Keep the bathroom neat.
- Dispose of bathroom materials properly.
- Wash their hands properly.
- Return to their classrooms immediately.

### Cafeteria

- Always respect oneself, other students, the lunch staff, the aides, and the cafeteria.
- Always walk into the cafeteria in an orderly manner.
- Always use an inside voice; remember to say “please” and “thank you”.
- Wait for your table to be called to buy lunch/snack and to throw away garbage and deposit recyclables.
- Raise your hand if you need something or need to be excused.
- Clean up your eating area.
- Wait quietly for your table to be dismissed.
- No food is to be taken out of the cafeteria.

**Repeated failure to respect the rules will result in loss of playground privileges and other penalties.**

### Playground

#### Respect Each Other

- Everyone is to be included on playground and play areas.
- Bullying is not permitted at any time.
- Do not hit, push, or kick others.
- Name-calling or the use of rude language is not permitted.
- No throwing rocks, sticks, ice, or snowballs.

#### Respect Adults

- Follow directions given by aides, teachers, parent volunteers, and YMCA personnel.
- Any problems or injuries should be reported to the aides or adults on duty.
- Ask permission of an aide to be allowed inside the school building.

#### Avoid Dangerous Situations

- Stay within playground boundaries.
- Follow the rules for proper use of equipment.
- Do not climb fences, walls, or trees.
- Tackle football or any tackling-type activities are not permitted.
- Do not use roller-blades, scooters, or skateboards in the building.
- Do not ride bicycles on school grounds during school hours.
- Bicycle helmets are required by law.
- Toys and equipment from home are not permitted at any time.

### Rules For Using Playground Equipment

- Children may not play tag games on the playground equipment found on the north and south playgrounds.
- Children should sit forward coming down the slide, one child at a time, and may not walk up the slide.
- When using the tire swing, children should:
  - have no more than three children on at one time;
  - sit up straight with feet in the center hole (no standing);
  - hold on firmly;
  - stop swinging when asked.
- Children should not hang legs over the side of the slide.
- Children should not jump off any high platforms.
- Children should take turns.
- Children must go in one direction on the rings and horizontal ladder (from the inside to the outside).
- Children should not walk under the rings or horizontal ladder when they are being used.
- Children may not stand or sit on top of the horizontal ladder or the rings.

### **Midland's Disciplinary Guidelines**

If the Code of Conduct rules are not followed, students should expect consequences based on their age, severity of offense, and frequency of occurrence. Possible consequences may include:

1. Oral warning
2. Time out
3. Conference with Principal
4. Loss of recess
5. Parental notification pursuant to NY State Education Law #3214
6. Other consequences many include suspension for continual behavioral problems.

### **Internet Acceptable Use Policy**

(Rye Elementary Schools)

As a safe Internet User, I promise:

- To respect the privacy of other users on the system. I will not enter another user's files without their permission.
- To use the Internet for work that is appropriate for educational purposes. Therefore, I will not enter chat rooms, send or receive personal e-mail, or purchase items on line.
- To respect the copyright and trademark laws of New York State and the Federal Government. I will not copy material off the Internet and use it as my own.
- To remember that I am interacting with strangers on the Internet and therefore should never give out any personal information or pictures.
- To let an adult know if I find any information on the Internet that is inappropriate or makes me feel uncomfortable.
- To talk with my parents to set up appropriate rules for on line use of the computer at home and outside of school.

## TRAFFIC & SAFETY

The safety and security of all the students at Midland School is a primary concern as we create policies for our building. Balancing our desire to maintain an opening and inviting atmosphere with managing and organizing a large school building can be quite a challenge. However, we have worked very hard to develop guidelines that monitor the passage of students and visitors to the school.

### Visitors

Midland truly values an authentic partnership with parents. We welcome and encourage you to visit the students, staff and faculty whenever the need arises. However, in order to maintain both the integrity of instruction and the safety of our students, there are several procedures in place that we expect all visitors to follow. As Midland is a very large building with multiple entrances, it is essential that all visitors to the school enter through the front door. Whether you have an appointment with a teacher, need to see the school nurse, attend a PTO meeting, or volunteer at a function, **you must sign in and out with the security desk and place a visitor pass on your shirt while you are in the building.**

Every moment of instruction is very valuable and interruptions to our students' learning must be kept to a minimum. If forgotten lunches, homework, instruments, or other items need to be given to your child, please drop the item off at the security desk. We will see that it is delivered to your child's class.

### Arrival

- **The early arrival program starts at 8:15 AM.** Aides are stationed in both playground areas to supervise the children. All Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade students assemble at the south playground. All 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students assemble at the north playground. For safety reasons, children should not arrive at school before 8:15.
  - At **8:35**, the early bell rings and children line up by class.
  - At **8:40**, the bell rings and children proceed to their classrooms.
  - At **8:45**, the late bell rings, thus signaling the start of the day.
- **Students may not gather in the front of the building.** There is no supervision and it is an active driveway.
- **Students arriving after 8:45** must enter the building through the front doors.
- Parents should not be walking children to their classrooms. This is very important in encouraging the independence of all our students. Keep in mind that the start of the day is not an appropriate time for parent teacher conferences.
- No student or other visitor is permitted in the hallways before 8:40 A.M. unless for an appointment or early morning program.
- On days when it not suitable to be outside, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students gather in the cafeteria while Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students assemble in the auditorium. A red flag is placed at the front of the building to designate that we will not be using the playgrounds.
- All students will enter through the front doors on inclement weather days.

## General Drop Off Procedures

- There are *three* drop-off areas.
  - The front driveway (better known as the traffic circle)
  - Midland Avenue in front of the building
  - Midland Avenue in front of the basketball court (It is recommended that children going to the north playground be dropped off by the basketball court so that they do not have to cross an active driveway.)
- When using a drop off area children are let out at the curb and the driver does not exit the vehicle for any reason.
- There is **NO PARKING** in any drop off area.
- If your child is unable to unbuckle, gather his belongings and exit the car by himself you must park in a legal, designated parking area to assist him.
- On rainy days, please allow yourself additional time to ensure the safe and timely arrival of your child.

## Drop Off in the Traffic Circle

- Make sure children can responsibly get out of the car independently before using the traffic circle.
- There is absolutely *no parking* in the circle between 8:15 and 8:45.
- Enter the driveway in the direction of traffic.
  - *If entering from the north,* you must turn left into the circle staying in the left lane until after the crosswalk where you will cross over to the curb to let your child out.
  - *If entering from the south,* you must turn right into the circle staying in the right lane and pulling up as close to the crosswalk as possible to let your child off at the curb.
- While in the driveway, you must stay in the lanes at all times, and cross only at the designated area after driving through the crosswalk.
- Please pull as far forward in the designated drop off areas as possible to allow other cars in behind you and keep the traffic moving.
- Once you have entered the circle and have pulled up as far as you can, please have your children exit the car at the curb in a timely manner. *Do not* keep them in the car until you are at the front of the building. This creates a traffic mess.
- *Do not* make a left turn out of the driveway during drop off as this creates a gridlock. It is very discourteous to all the other students trying to get to school on time.
- Parents should stay in their cars during drop off. Have children ready with all of their school belongings and make sure they can unbuckle and open the doors themselves.
- In addition to the traffic person at the crosswalk on Midland Avenue, there are 2 crossing guards to help with the flow of traffic. Please adhere to their directions.

## **Drop Off in Other Areas**

- Other drop off areas include Midland Avenue in front of the building from the traffic circle entrance to the driveway by the north playground and on Midland Avenue adjacent to the basketball courts on the north playground.
- All drop off areas are considered No Parking zones and vehicles cannot be left unattended.

## **Dismissal**

- Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade students are escorted and dismissed on the south playground. Parents must make eye contact with the Kindergarten or first grade teacher for their child to be dismissed.
- Parents must wait away from all doors providing students with adequate room to exit the building.
- 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students exit on to the north playground.
- Older siblings may pick up younger siblings and then exit to the south playground together.
- Kidspace and YMCA buses pick up children from the front lobby where they are being supervised.
- All morning parking and traffic regulations apply in the afternoon as well.
- At 3:00 PM, the bell rings signaling the end of the school day.
- In the event that your child's dismissal plans change prior to 12 PM please notify the teacher and main office. When changes occur after 12 PM please call the main office as teachers may not see the change before the end of the school day.
- The office will not accept dismissal changes after 2:30 PM as the school is preparing for the end of the school day and cannot ensure dismissal changes will be communicated to the child.

## **Pick Up in the Traffic Circle**

- Cars move through the traffic circle until you see your child waiting at the curb. Once you see them you may pull over to the curb to pick them up.
- Parents may not idle and wait in one spot until your child comes out.
- Remember you may not leave your car or park your car in the circle from 2:40 PM to 3:15 PM Monday - Friday.

## **Pick Up in Other Areas**

- When using a pickup area on Midland Avenue there is no easy way of circling back around.
- Cars may stop and wait at the curb for the child to come down.
- Cars can NEVER be left unattended and once the child is in the car safely it is imperative that you pull away from the curb so another person can move into that pick up spot.
- Remember to turn off your engine while waiting for your child to help protect the health of all our students and the environment.

## Parking

- The following is a list of **LEGAL places to park** at Midland School during drop off and pick up times. (Parking means a person is leaving their vehicle unattended and walking away – even if it is just for a short time.)
  - Midland Avenue before you approach the Traffic Circle.
  - Midland Avenue after you pass the basketball courts on the north playground.
  - The Rye Recreation parking lot next to the tennis courts.
  - On neighboring streets as long as you are clear of all driveways and entry corners.
- **NEVER park** in the Fire Lane. You can be towed.
- Never park in the traffic circle or any other drop off/pick up area during arrival and dismissal.

## Crosswalk Safety

- Always use a crosswalk to safely cross Midland Avenue or the Traffic Circle.
- Two crosswalks exist at Midland School – one across Midland Avenue and one to cross the traffic circle near the front entrance.
- Walking through the Traffic Circle or undesignated areas on Midland Avenue sets a bad example for our children and puts yourself and others in harm's way.

## Picking Up a Child Early

At times, it may be necessary to pull a child out of school early for a family emergency or even a doctor's appointment. Whenever possible, we ask that a note is sent in to the teacher that morning. This note should state the time and reason that your child is being picked up early. Please also indicate if there will be another individual such as a babysitter picking them up. Upon arrival, sign in at the front desk and the security person will call down to the teacher. No child may leave the building before the 3:00 bell without parental supervision. Please share this information with anyone responsible for dropping off or picking up your child during the school year.

In the event that your child's dismissal plans change prior to 12 PM please notify the teacher **AND** the main office. When changes occur after 12 PM please call the main office as teachers may not see the change before the end of the school day. The office will not accept dismissal changes after 2:30 PM as the school is preparing for the end of the school day and cannot ensure dismissal changes will be communicated to the child.

## General Safety Rules

- Many of us enjoy the companionship of family pets. Often, we want them to accompany us everywhere, including school to pick up our children. However, some children are anxious and/or allergic around animals. Since school is a place where we try to make all children comfortable, **please do NOT bring your dog or other pet to school or on school grounds for any reason.** Your dog may be friendly, but (a) Some people are afraid of dogs. (b) Some people are allergic to dogs. (c) The Health Department's recommendation is to not allow dogs on campus. If you would like to walk your dog to school to pick up your children, please arrange to meet your child off school grounds. This rule is for the

safety of all of our students.

- We encourage children to ride their bikes and scooters to school. However, once on school property bikes and scooters **must be walked** to the lock-up areas.
- Children should wear shoes that are secure on their feet. This will ensure their safety, especially during recess time. Flip flops are not permitted in school. Please refer to the appropriate dress section of the *Code of Conduct* for further details.
- **Handicapped parking** areas are designated for those with parking permits, and are to be used only if the permit holder is actually in the vehicle.

For more information, see the Traffic and Safety Handbook.

## **LUNCH AND RECESS**

### **Lunch & Recess Schedule**

Each grade is assigned an hour for lunch and recess every day. Weather permitting students will go outside for recess. Factors that will be considered when determining indoor versus outdoor recess are: precipitation, wind advisories, condition of the field/blacktop, temperature of 20 degrees or above (wind chill factor included). If recess is indoors, classes are scheduled on a rotating basis to play in the gymnasium, spend time in the library, computer room, music room, or students' classrooms.

As children will be going to outdoor recess whenever the weather permits even in the winter months please have the children dress appropriately by wearing jackets, hats and gloves. If there is snow on the ground, they will need snow pants and boots sent in via backpack or will have to stay on the blacktop areas.

Children should not be bringing toys, games, and electronic equipment to recess. Cell phones must be left in backpacks and turned off for the school day. This is a time for physical activity and socialization.

### **Cafeteria**

Midland School has an on-site cafeteria that provides hot and cold lunches for students, and tables where students eat their lunch (either bagged or bought). Each month, the cafeteria menus are posted on the Rye City School District website under the Food Services Department tab. Students have a choice of a hot meal, or cold sandwiches and cereals. Prices for cafeteria items are listed on the menu. Students may also bring in a bag lunch to eat in the cafeteria.

### **Cafeteria Accounts**

Parents can set up an account for their child's cafeteria purchases. Information will be mailed out in August from the Food Service staff of the Rye City School District or you can go to the website. Students access their cafeteria account with a fingerprint system that allows only your

child to use their cafeteria account. Accounts can be set up to allow students to purchase meals only, or meals and dessert items. Payments to the account can be made by check or through an online PayPAMS system. The PayPAMS service gives parents, via the internet, the ability to view their child's lunch account balance, allow for the ability to make online payments to the lunch account with a credit card, and view what purchases their child has made. If online payments are not preferred, the service is still available for you to view balances and past purchases. This service allows parents the opportunity help guide their children into more individualized family-accepted eating choices as they view their children's purchasing habits.

## **PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION (PTO)**

### **Mission Statement**

The Midland PTO is an organization of parents and teachers that exists to support the students, teachers, staff, and families of Midland School. Here is a brief introduction to the Midland PTO to let you know how you can get involved and where you can turn with questions, comments, or ideas.

### **Membership**

All Midland families and faculty are welcome to join the PTO. You can do this simply by paying a fee at Back to School Night each year. If you miss this opportunity, you can stop by the front office any time after Back to School Night to join. The membership fee to join the PTO also entitles you to a copy of the Midland Directory to help you stay in touch with Midland School and Midland families.

### **Committee Descriptions**

Executive Committee: Works closely with the principal, administration, and volunteers in the school to coordinate PTO programs. Represents parent views to the principal, administration, and Board of Education. Provides communication to parents in respect of goings-on in the school and school district. Oversees the finances of the PTO. Includes six positions: two Co-Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, Midland Express Editor and Vice President Community Relations.

Communications/  
Midland Express:

The Midland Express is our weekly newsletter which aims to keep parents up-to-date on PTO and school events. The Midland Express Editor is also responsible for producing a Community Newsletter in partnership with Milton and Osborn Schools. Information for the Midland Express can be sent to [MidlandNews@gmail.com](mailto:MidlandNews@gmail.com) and for the Community Newsletter, please send to [RyeNews@hotmail.com](mailto:RyeNews@hotmail.com).

- After-School Clubs: Everything from lacrosse, cooking, nature to needlepoint may be covered by the after-school clubs. The Committee chooses the Clubs and staffs them, then posts club information on the PTO website. These clubs are funded, organized, and frequently taught by the parents. A fee per child per club helps to defray expenses. The clubs are designed to be for specific age groups and meet once a week from 3:15 to 4:15 p.m. for a semester.
- Auction/Parent Social: One of the biggest fundraisers for Midland School. The auction usually takes place in October. It is a fun party for the parent community and includes dinner, a live DJ, and a cash bar. There are lots of items available for bidding.
- Book Fair: Begins in September and culminates on Back to School Night. The Book Fair brings thousands of books for readers of all ages and interests to the Midland gym for three and a half days. The PTO receives a percentage of each sale. Families are also encouraged to donate to the Midland library and to the classrooms.
- Box Tops for Education: Collects box tops from participating products and submits them throughout the year to raise money for our school.
- Caring Committee: Provides assistance to any Midland family experiencing a crisis, such as a medical condition that impairs a family member, a death in the family, a fire, or any significant hardship. Examples of services offered include providing meals, hosting play dates, running errands, and providing transportation. Our committee's involvement can be anonymous, if the family wishes. To benefit from this committee's resources, please contact the committee chairs listed in the Directory.
- Class Parents: Help to organize class parties, enlist other parents to help in the classroom and with PTO functions, activate phone chain when necessary and other assistance in the classroom as requested by the teacher.
- Class Projects: Coordinates class art projects that are auctioned at the parent social.
- Class Pictures: Taken in September/October. We need help organizing the day, distributing photos and ensuring retakes are available.
- Courtyard: Coordinates outdoor gardening activities and outdoor science classes, organizes and develops garden area, and maintains the garden space in Midland's Courtyard.

- Curriculum Enrichment: Arranges for special assemblies and presentations, which enrich the educational process and the curriculum. This Committee works closely with the teachers and in the past has included artists in the classrooms, guest storytellers, and programs from local arts and science organizations.
- Directory: Contains class lists, calendars, PTO and District information, as well as an alphabetical listing of all Midland families with their address and phone numbers. The committee in charge pulls this information together over the summer for production in time for Back to School Night.
- DVD Liaison: Coordinates the recording of all Midland productions for distribution within our school and to our parents.
- Environment: Works with the administration to launch initiatives that encourage us to be environmentally sensitive and do our best to reduce, reuse and recycle.
- Famous Artists: Brings the work of famous artists into the classrooms using parent volunteer trained docents. Two artists are studied each year through reproductions and audio/visual material. The committee coordinates training with the Rye Art Center and ensures all classes are covered.
- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Concerts: Coordinates with other elementary school PTO representatives to arrange a reception after the combined 5<sup>th</sup> grade band and orchestra concert.
- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation: Fourth grade parents coordinate the celebrations on the evening of graduation.
- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Musical: A key part of the 5<sup>th</sup> grade music curriculum produced with parent assistance. This is an annual spring tradition at Midland. The parent committee helps with costumes, sets, photography, and many other details!
- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Picnic: Pulls together the picnic enjoyed by the 5<sup>th</sup> grade as part of their end of year pool party celebration.
- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Slide Show: Coordinates a slide show or video presentation as part of the 5<sup>th</sup> grade graduation festivities.
- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Yearbook: Another rite of passage for our oldest class produced with parent assistance. Pictures of events important to this class are needed each year.

<u>Gift Wrap:</u>	Begins in September. The committee coordinates the distribution via the children of a sales kit with samples of many gift wraps and gift items for friends, neighbors, and relatives to order. The PTO receives 50% of all sales, making this a very important source of income.
<u>Heard in Rye :</u>	A community-wide sponsored speaker series bringing experts and authors to Rye parents to address topical parenting issues. The parent representative coordinates with the Heard in Rye Committee.
<u>Membership:</u>	Works on Back-To-School night to welcome parents to the school, collect PTO membership dues and sell Directories.
<u>Midland Elves:</u>	Midland students experience the joy of giving to those less fortunate each holiday season. All students and families have the opportunity to participate. The Committee connects giving families to those in need and runs the gift drive.
<u>Midland Fair:</u>	The other big fund-raiser for Midland School. The Fair enhances camaraderie throughout the school. The Fair traditionally starts with a student parade from the Rye train station to the school, kicking off a day of games, crafts, activities, food and raffles. Another fun event to organize with a group!
<u>Midland Wear:</u>	Available at the Book Fair. This committee organizes the production of T-shirts, shorts, sweatshirts, and some surprises bearing the Midland logo which are available for purchase.
<u>Photography:</u>	Captures events throughout the year on camera and ensures that these photos are shared with parents (through the yearbook, displays in the hall, etc).
<u>Playground Equipment:</u>	Organizes bins of playground equipment to use throughout the year.
<u>REACH:</u>	Works closely with the Administration on character initiatives in the school (Respect, Empathy, Acceptance, Cooperation, and Honesty). This committee often coordinates with other PTO initiatives that support our REACH objectives.
<u>Recess:</u>	Works with teachers to evaluate and recommend activities and programs for daily recess.
<u>School Supplies:</u>	Organizes the purchase and distribution of school supply packages for families interested in buying through the PTO.

Science Nights: A series of parent-run programs to enrich the science curriculum at Midland. During the year, each grade gets its own science night to explore the fun worlds of bubbles, structures, birds, or flight. Parents bring in outside experts and host the event.

Talent Show: A fun afternoon for the children to shine on stage. This committee is coordinated by parents who run the show.

Teacher Appreciation Luncheon: A special day in June during which we show our appreciation for all the Midland School does by serving the staff lunch.

Traffic & Safety: Coordinate programs for students on pedestrian and traffic safety.

Visiting Authors: Brings authors into the school to discuss the writing process and the books they have written. Works closely with our librarian prior to the author's visit. Frequently, the author's books are available for sale and autographing.

Welcoming Committee: Purpose is to welcome new families (particularly when moving mid-year) into our community and make the transition as smooth as possible. The welcoming committee hosts a new family social prior to the start of the school year. In addition, the Welcoming Committee coordinates refreshments for Back to School Night and other Midland events.

Wellness: Mission is to facilitate the Rye City School District's goal of providing wellness education and growth opportunities for students and their families. The committee offers events, programs and suggestions/guidelines that promote a healthy school environment while nurturing the well-being and success of the "whole student".

Women's Career Night: An event honoring Women in History month. It is a celebration of the contribution women are making and have made to American history. Different careers are presented to all 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders.

## **A MIDLAND DICTIONARY**

It always helps to know what your child is talking about! A brief dictionary of "Midland Speak" is not intended to be exhaustive, but may give you an opportunity to discuss some Midland programs and events with your child.

- Book of the Month: Perhaps our most loved literacy program is the *Midland Book of the Month*. Our media specialist selects books which are educational as well as appealing to a wide range of students. A copy of this book is wrapped and presented to every classroom and support teacher as a wonderful addition to their classroom library to be reviewed over the course of the month.
- Class Buddies: Classes in different grades are paired up and students are matched with a “buddy” from another grade.
- Midland Fair: Annual event organized by the PTO that takes place on a Saturday in the springtime. The Midland Fair usually begins with a parade from Rye to the school in time to kick off a day of child-centered events and games.
- Midland Mile: In the spring, all fifth graders and students in grades 3 and 4 who have shown athletic achievement in the Presidential Fitness Award can race in the Midland Mile. Students and teachers come out to cheer on the runners.
- REACH: REACH is a character education program that is woven into the events and programs of Midland School and the PTO. REACH is an acronym for **R**espect, **E**mpathy, **A**cceptance, **C**ooperation, **H**onesty.
- Spirit Assembly: One day each month, students and staff gather together to celebrate their school spirit. Students are encouraged to wear Midland wear or school colors (red and white) on Spirit Assembly days.
- Wax Museum: Students in grades three and up will often present material they have studied in a “wax museum” format. Each student is a “wax statue” that presents information about the character they have studied when a “Start” button is pressed.
- WOW moment: A WOW moment is when a child is caught doing something so kind and selfless that it makes staff say WOW. These special moments are recognized during morning announcements.

## **A MIDLAND EDUCATION**

### **GENERAL CURRICULUM**

Midland Elementary School educates students from Kindergarten through fifth grade. Our curriculum is guided by New York State’s Common Core Curriculum which can be accessed at <https://www.engageny.org/common-core-curriculum>. Over the course of these six years, students learn not only reading, writing, mathematics, science and social studies, but also discover

technology, art, music, language and physical education. The RCSD uses a balanced literacy approach as it applies to reading and writing instruction. Our current math curriculum utilizes the Houghton Mifflin approach, Every Day Mathematics. Much of the elementary school education occurs with a classroom teacher in a student's assigned home classroom. Some programs, such as foreign language (FLES) learning involve other teachers who come into the class. Yet other programs, such as the "specials" of library, PE, computers, music, and art, are taught in dedicated facilities within Midland School. A full discussion of the elementary school curriculum and student assessment in the Rye City School District is available in *The Parent's Guide to Elementary School Academics* published by the Rye City School District.

## **Student Placement Procedures**

At Midland, many factors are considered by an interdisciplinary team consisting of grade level teachers, special programs teachers, support staff, psychological staff, and school administrators. Working together, we attempt to develop a classroom atmosphere as conducive to the learning process as possible for all of our students, while, at the same time, placing each individual student at Midland in the best environment possible for his/her educational, social and psychological development.

Student placement is a complicated process that takes multiple factors into account. We encourage parents to communicate with their child's current teacher and the school administration specific information they feel would be beneficial when developing next year's student placement. Parents should be aware that the only request that the school administration can always honor is a request not to have a specific teacher. This request must be based upon the immediate family having a prior experience with that teacher.

In planning the classes we strive to develop heterogeneously mixed classes, which are representative of the entire student population. We must consider parity in terms of the male/female ratios, numbers of students, and the academic as well as social / emotional dynamics of each class cohort.

## **Classroom Curriculum**

All students spend the bulk of their day in their assigned classroom with their teacher. All students learn reading, writing, mathematics and social studies at an age- and grade-appropriate level in the class. Specific information on what is taught in each grade will be discussed in the section about each grade. Additional curriculum information is provided by the classroom teacher each year at Back to School Night.

Classroom work is supplemented by field trips to enhance the field of study appropriate to the grade level. In addition, some programs are brought into the school to enhance the study experience. District math instructors come to Midland classrooms with math enrichment programs. The PTO arranges for parents to be trained at the Rye Arts Center to bring the "Famous Artist" program into the class. Naturalists from the Rye Nature Center come into the classrooms to prepare students for nature education field trips to the Center.

## Foreign Language in the Elementary Schools (FLES)

Through the FLES program, students learn a foreign language in the classroom while grade level content is reinforced. Currently, Spanish is taught three times a week in grades one through five.

## Courtyard Garden and Science Education Center

In 2006, Midland was able to unveil a garden education center in the courtyard between the 1<sup>st</sup> grade and Kindergarten wings, thanks to some special families. With a small pond in the center, the courtyard features a variety of vegetable and flower species, allowing for educational modules to be developed and used to supplement the science curriculum.

## Specials

Each class has “specials” every week. Specials at Midland School include: PE, library, music, and art. A schedule for your child’s specials will be available at Back to School night. Students are taught by specially trained staff in classrooms, labs, the library, or the gymnasium dedicated to that pursuit. Report cards include grades and comments from specials teachers, as well as the student’s classroom teacher.

The following table lists the frequency of specials for each grade level at Midland School.

Weekly Specials	Physical Education*	Library	Music	Art
Kindergarten	twice a week	once a week	twice a week	once a week
1 <sup>st</sup> grade	twice a week	once a week	twice a week	once a week
2 <sup>nd</sup> grade	twice a week	once a week	twice a week	once a week
3 <sup>rd</sup> grade	twice a week	once a week	twice a week	once a week
4 <sup>th</sup> grade	twice a week	once a week	twice a week	once a week
5 <sup>th</sup> grade	twice a week	once a week	twice a week	once a week

\*All students must wear or bring sneakers/running shoes for physical education class. In 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade, students will change into gym clothes for physical education.

## Homework Policy

### Purpose of Homework

Homework is an extension of what students learn in class. Tasks and activities help connect each parent with their child’s learning experience in the classroom. Homework is assigned regularly so that students become responsible partners in their own education. Assignments are generally given Monday through Thursday evenings. Teachers may alter homework routines depending on special events or holidays. Long term projects may be assigned especially in grades 2-5. Occasionally, a teacher may assign missed work or uncompleted class assignments as part of a student’s assignments especially in grades 3-5. In addition, regular reading both for assignments and beyond assignments is a common expectation in all grades at Midland School.

### Teacher Responsibilities

Homework should entail activities that students can do independently unless other instructions are given. Feedback for homework assignments should be given by the classroom teacher on a regular basis. Teachers should select the appropriate amount and nature of homework for students. Assignments are explained, discussed and recorded prior to dismissal each day. Teachers are expected to keep a record of completed assignments and contact parents if issues with homework arise. Teachers are also expected to maintain a class homework policy that is shared with students and parents and corresponds to the guidelines below.

While each child is unique and works at their own pace, the following are the recommended maximum time allotments as well as the typical assignment profile for homework assignments in each grade.

**Grade K** (*15-20 minutes per night*): Kindergarten teachers provide OPTIONAL assignments to students in an effort to assist parents in establishing helpful routines. Whether sent home on a monthly, weekly, or nightly basis, students are expected to work towards independence on 1-2 assignments Monday through Thursday evenings. By the winter, children are often provided books or word cards at an appropriate level to share with someone at home.

**Grade 1** (*15-20 minutes per night*): By mid-year, a first grader can expect spelling and math homework on a nightly basis. In spelling, children are expected to study and complete assignments in preparation for weekly spelling quizzes. Math assignments are always a review of daily instruction and basic concepts. Children are additionally expected to spend at least 15 minutes reading each night.

**Grade 2** (*30-40 minutes per night*): A second grader should expect 2 assignments each night Monday through Thursday. These are typically a spelling and math assignment. Math activities generally correspond to the daily lesson. Homework is expected to be handed in the following day with the exception of approximately 2 long term projects over the course of the year. Children are expected to read as a part of their 40 minutes each night and a reading log may be required.

**Grade 3** (*30-45 minutes per night*): A third grader can expect 2-3 assignments which will often include a spelling task and math task Monday through Thursday evenings. These assignments should take approximately 30 minutes and an additional amount of daily reading is a regular expectation for every student. Occasionally, long term projects may be added.

**Grade 4** (*45-60 minutes per night*): Fourth grade students should expect 3-4 assignments Monday through Thursday evenings. Long term projects are assigned to students in this grade level to assist them in developing the skills necessary to manage their time effectively. In addition, students are expected at this level to study for tests and quizzes. Assignments may often include opportunities for this work. Regular reading outside of assignments is expected and should be built into homework routines over the course of the school year.

**Grade 5** (*45-60 minutes per night*): A significant effort is made at this grade level in developing students' autonomy, independence and time management skills in preparation for the move to

middle school. Typically, a fifth grader can expect 3-4 assignments Monday through Thursday evenings. These assignments will include a math task, language arts task, a related content area assignment and/or preparation for a test or quiz. Students may often receive advanced notice of these assignments and are encouraged to pace themselves in order to work successfully and in a way that matches their personal schedules. This also includes reading assignments such as Book Looks or Logs. On occasion, an assignment at this level may be utilized in preparation for the following day's lesson. If a student struggles with such an assignment, they should communicate this to their classroom teacher. Independent, long term projects are limited as a great deal of the classroom curriculum is designed already for this type of work.

#### Students' Responsibility:

Students are expected to know what their assignments are and gather necessary materials for completing the assignments before going home. Students are also expected to complete all homework assignments independently to the best of their ability. Homework assignments should reflect organized, neat and well thought out work on the part of the student. Homework should be done at home as part of a regular routine.

#### Parent's Responsibility:

It is the parents' responsibility to communicate to their children that they value assignments given by the teachers. Parents should designate a quiet, calm location and set aside a specific time each day for students to complete homework assignments. Parents should help students with homework ONLY when they are unable to complete assignments independently. Should a parent feel the need to seek out additional assistance for their child, the Rye Free Reading Room provides free homework assistance between 3:30 and 5:00 Monday through Thursday. Teachers are available there to explain directions, provide encouragement, offer tips and generally review assignments.

If homework is incomplete, parents may send in a note to the teacher explaining why. In the event of illness or absence, parents may request homework and make up class assignments from their child's teacher through the main office or by emailing the teacher directly. Generally, teachers need to receive these requests prior to 11:00 a.m. that school day.

If a child is taking too much time or is overwhelmed with the homework, parents should speak with the teacher. Remember that each child works at his/her own pace and parents should use the guidelines above in gauging their child's response to the homework assignments given. Parents are expected to regularly review the teacher's classroom policy for further guidelines, tips or additional policies regarding homework.

### **Class Trips**

Class trips are considered learning experiences and selected because they support the curriculum content for a particular grade. In order to ensure that our children enjoy the experience and are safe at all times while away from school, these trips require the willingness of parents to chaperone.

All chaperones must be on the bus with the children. There are many reasons for this rule. When dealing with traffic it is feasible that individual cars may travel a different route than the bus, get caught in traffic, have a mechanical breakdown, and many other possibilities, leaving the children unsupervised. In other scenarios, the bus may break down, and it would be unwise to have the school bus with all the children in one location and the parent chaperones somewhere else. Even if every vehicle traveled without a problem to the destination, it is often difficult to “meet up” at the trip location, especially when there are multiple entrances. While we occasionally use parent drivers, these are local trips and require minimum travel time.

Only parents who are chaperoning can be on the class trip. It becomes awkward when a parent arrives who is not the chaperone. At that point, the question becomes who is responsible for the child, the assigned chaperone or the parent who is not the chaperone.

Siblings are not allowed on class trips. In addition to liability issues, it is not possible for a parent to carefully supervise the children of the class while also worrying about the needs of a sibling. Let’s remember that this is an educational learning experience, not a family outing.

When you volunteer to be a parent driver you must stop by the security desk to sign the parent driver form and have your license and auto insurance card copied. Please keep in mind that we must follow child safety requirements. According to New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law, Section 1229-c, *All back seat passengers who are age four or older but under age eight must be restrained in an appropriate child restraint system. A child older than four years of age and over four feet nine inches in height may be restrained by a safety belt.*” If your child is under age seven or less than four feet nine inches, please give your booster seat to the parent driver.

We rely on your participation and cooperation to ensure that a class trip is a fun and enriching experience for all the students. In order to create an opportunity for all parents to chaperone, the classroom teachers alternate those selected.

## **Recycling and Environmental Efforts**

In 2008, Midland received the waste wise recycling designation from Westchester County. In the cafeteria, biodegradable trays are now used and bottles and other recyclable lunch trash is collected. Paper and other recyclables are gathered in the classrooms. Midland continues to work hard to reduce its carbon footprint through its annual earth week education programs, sales of reusable lunch containers and water bottles, and encouragement of walking, riding bikes, and carpooling to school.

## **STUDENT EVENTS AT MIDLAND**

### **Author Visits**

Each year, the PTO, in consultation with the librarian, arranges to bring in authors to discuss the writing process and the books they have written. Frequently, the author’s books are available for sale and autographing.

## **Birthday Parties**

Children may celebrate their birthdays in school. Generally, children and their parents provide cupcakes or cookies, juice, and paper goods for the child's class, after consultation with the classroom teacher as to the best day for the celebration. For the birthday treat, it is recommended that enough of "each flavor" of the treat is provided to avoid conflict among the children and keep the birthday celebration simple. Parents are requested to touch base with the teacher regarding any allergy issues in the classroom. It is requested that children do not hand out private birthday party invitations in school unless the entire class is invited, to preclude hurt feelings and misunderstandings on the part of children who may not be invited.

## **Dr. Seuss' Birthday Celebration**

Each year on or around March 2<sup>nd</sup>, Midland School celebrates the birthday of Theodore Geisel, the beloved author known as Dr. Seuss. Typically students return to the classrooms and teachers of the previous grade and hear stories told by their former teachers.

## **Famous Artists**

Each class is visited by parent volunteers who teach about the life and work of a famous artist. The parent volunteers, organized by the PTO, are trained at the Rye Arts Center and come prepared with information and activities for students.

## **Flag Day**

On or near June 14<sup>th</sup>, the students of Midland School celebrate Flag Day with a school assembly outdoors at the flagpole in front of the school.

## **Midland Mile**

In the spring, the whole school comes out to cheer on runners in the "Midland Mile". Fifth graders and students who have shown athletic achievement in the Presidential Fitness Award race one mile around the Rye Recreation fields across from Midland School.

## **Spirit Assemblies**

On the first Friday of each month, all students and staff gather in the gym for a spirit assembly. Many students wear red or white Midland colors, and this an opportunity for the school to gather, show their school spirit and celebrate their school community.

# **PARENT ATTENDED EVENTS**

## **American Education Week Open House**

Annually, as part of our celebration of American Education Week, the classes of Midland School are opened up for parents to observe and participate for a morning. You will be invited to observe your child's classroom in action. The children will be in their classroom unless they have a special, in which case you will be invited to attend the special with your child. When you arrive at school,

please sign in at the front desk. In order to avoid unnecessary distraction, we request that you do not bring younger children as this is a typical school day with regular classroom instruction taking place. Parents who do bring younger children will not be allowed to participate in the Open House.

## **Classroom Parties**

Occasionally during the school year, the classroom teacher will ask the assistance of class parents in planning a party in the classroom. Class parents (see the description under PTO) typically assist the teacher by bringing party goods, food and drinks as appropriate. Early each school year, parents are asked to contribute a nominal sum of money for classroom parties. In the rare case that class party money is left over at the end of the year, the class parents are requested to:

- Ensure all class parents have been reimbursed for their expenses.
- Consider buying something special for the classroom per the teacher's request.
- Consider holding an end of the year party for the class.
- Donate the leftover dollars to the PTO scholarship fund.

Class parents are requested to observe the following guidelines for classroom parties. For all class events, please ask for ideas from your teacher first and please follow their wishes. The Head class parent is the only one who communicates with the teacher unless the teacher advises otherwise. Please touch base with your teacher about any allergy issues in the classroom.

For holidays that revolve around candy, class parents are encouraged to focus the parties on crafts and games and that healthy food options be offered. Please consider these suggestions:

Halloween Party: (can be served in cauldrons for fun)

- Orange Melon balls & grapes
- Apple slices
- Fruit kabobs on straws
- Halloween pretzels
- Carrots and low fat dip
- Bagels and orange crème cheese
- 100% orange fruit bars
- Orange yogurt parfaits
- Orange/black Low-fat pudding cups, fruit cups, jello cups

Valentines Party:

- Heart shaped cheese slices
- Red bagels and crème cheese
- Strawberries on straw skewers
- 100% red fruit bars
- Red or pink yogurt parfaits
- Red or pink low-fat pudding cups, fruit cups, jello cups
- Also, for the protection of our students with food allergies, we encourage paper valentines with prizes such as erasers, stickers, & rulers

Please note that parent volunteers are only necessary for the Kindergarten Valentine's Day celebrations. Grades 1 – 5 can manage their class celebrations unless otherwise requested by the classroom teacher.

Holiday Concert/Cast/End of the year/Author Teas/Special events

- Pretzels
- Air popped popcorn
- Cheese & veggie & fruit platters

Conservation tips: Let's try "waste-free" class parties...

- Please try to bring only what you think the children will eat to avoid waste.
- Please ask your teacher if decorations are needed as often the class room may already be decorated. If you choose to decorate, please use recyclable items.
- Please encourage children to bring their Midland water bottles for parties.
- Please consider using recyclable paper products. (website info to be provided) or reusable cups and plates.

For holidays and end of the year, please refer to the RCSD policy #1810 which clearly outlines the types and level of gifts to school personnel that are deemed appropriate.

## **Halloween Parade and Celebration**

The annual Midland Halloween Parade and Celebration is eagerly awaited by Midland students. In order to insure the safety of our students and the success of the parade, the following guidelines are recommended for the Halloween Parade.

Costumes:

- Please be sensitive to the young age of the children in the building when selecting a costume for your child.
- "Blood Masks" or similar masks are not permitted in school or at the parade.
- Weapons of any kind are not permitted.
- Children should bring costumes to school and will be allowed to put them on before the parade.
- Costumes should be comfortable.

Parade Route:

- Children line up inside buildings by their classroom.
- Fifth grade will start to file by the students.
- All classes will fall in and join the parade.
- Children will travel with their classes. Each class will have a banner/sign.
- The parade will exit from the new wing to the circle.
- Children will walk on the sidewalk to the traffic circle, and continue past the main entrance into the North playground. The parade will circle the North playground and re-enter in the North entrance.
- In the event of muddy grounds, please have your child bring extra pair of shoes.
- Parade is cancelled in the event of inclement weather.

Parties:

- Regardless of weather, class parties will go on as planned.
- Parties are held in classrooms.
- Class parents and teachers will contact you in regard to special plans or arrangements.

## **Science Nights**

Each year, the PTO arranges for grade level science nights. Usually, an outside expert comes into the school with a presentation about a scientific concept, and then the students and parents have the opportunity to participate in some science activities. Science Nights are *not* drop off events, parents are requested to stay and participate with their child.

## **EXTRACURRICULAR PROGRAMS**

In addition to a full and varied curriculum at Midland School, there are many opportunities for students to participate in additional activities that are not required, but available to supplement the school program. These activities take place early in the morning (before the school day begins) or after school, on the Midland School property. Activities may be organized by Midland School teachers, or arranged by the PTO. Frequently, there is a fee involved in these programs. See the principal for scholarship information. Extracurricular programs may differ from year to year. Information on the upcoming programs will be provided through the Midland Express e-mail newsletter and information will be available on the PTO webpage.

### **Early Morning Programs**

Early morning programs usually begin at 7:45 am or 8:00 am and finish at approximately 8:30 am to allow students time to deposit backpacks in lockers or cubbies and prepare for school. Programs such as various sports mini-leagues are frequently offered in the mornings. Fourth and fifth grade students also have the opportunity to participate in band, orchestra or chorus, which hold weekly practices before school begins.

### **After School Programs**

The Midland PTO runs a substantive and varied program of after-school clubs for all grade levels. After-school club activities occur from 3:15 – 4:15 pm with student pickup from the front entry at 4:15 pm. After-school clubs typically include sports, nature, games and practical skills activities. Outside vendors, parents, and art teachers guide the children in fun activities.

## **KINDERGARTEN**

Kindergarten teachers at Midland hope to foster and guide your child in developing their

- Social and academic confidence

- Independence
- Interpersonal relationships
- Feelings of importance and self worth
- Problem solving skills

## Entering Kindergarten

It is important for your kindergartner to feel comfortable when starting in a new school. Here are some suggestions to help you and your child get ready for Kindergarten:

- Visit the school playground over the summer.
- Have your child socialize with other children in groups and/or one on one.
- Develop independent skills; for example, zipping coats, washing hand, button shirts and pants.
- Understand that actions have both causes and effects.
- Begin to share with others.
- Be able to recognize authority.
- Read to your child every night.
- Recognize rhyming words.
- Look at pictures in a book and make up stories.
- Identify alphabet letters and numbers.

The following three important events are to ensure a smooth transition for you and your child into Kindergarten at Midland Elementary School.

- 1 Visitation: This is an opportunity for your child to meet the teachers, see the classrooms and familiarize themselves with their new school. Visitations are usually scheduled for May prior to your child entering Kindergarten. On the scheduled day, you will bring your child to Midland School. The Kindergarten teachers will meet you in the front lobby. Your child will proceed to the Kindergarten classrooms to do some activities while the principal escorts parents in a tour of Midland School.
- 2 Screening: Each child will be screened in the spring prior to beginning school. During the Kindergarten screening, your child will be doing various activities with each teacher. You will receive a letter from Midland notifying you of you the date and time of your screening appointment. While your child is working with the teachers, you can use this time to fill out necessary paperwork from the nurse. The screening process helps teachers get to know the children and create balanced classrooms for the next year. If the teachers have any questions or concerns, they will talk to you after the screening is finished.
- 3 Social: The Kindergarten social takes place shortly before the first day of school. It allows students to see their classroom, meet their teacher and classmates. The social helps children with any separation anxiety they may have.

## Kindergarten Curriculum

The Kindergarten curriculum is focused on early reading, writing and numerical skills. The curriculum is guided by New York State's Common Core Curriculum which can be accessed at <https://www.engageny.org/common-core-curriculum>. Developing social confidence and learning behavioral skills necessary for school are also carefully integrated into the Kindergarten program.

## **The Kindergarten School Day**

For the first three weeks of school all Kindergartners attend school from 8:40 am to 12:00 pm. Beginning on the fourth week of school the full day Kindergarten program will begin. Please see the Midland school calendar as to the specific date when the full day Kindergarten begins.

During the first three weeks of school Kindergarten students will not receive lunch at school. When the full day program does begin on the fourth week, Kindergarten students will eat lunch in the cafeteria. Students will receive 30 minutes of lunch time and 30 minutes of recess each day.

## **Kindergarten Field Trips and Special Events**

Field trips and events are planned by the teachers each year to enhance the curriculum and may change from year to year. Here is a list of typical Kindergarten events and field trips:

Multicultural Celebration: Each December, parents provide a food appropriate to the family's cultural background and join the Kindergarten class in a global celebration of heritage and culture.

Kindergarten Play: In the spring, you will be invited to see the entire Kindergarten class perform a musical play in the auditorium.

Beach Day: In the spring, students go to Oakland Beach with the Rye Nature Center.

## **FIRST GRADE**

All students stay full days at school (8:40 am to 3:00 pm) from Monday through Friday. Although social growth is important, in first grade there is less emphasis on play and more on structured academics. The development and learning that occurs in first grade is extraordinary.

### **First Grade Curriculum**

First grade is a time of significant academic, social, emotional and physical achievements. First graders develop as readers, writers, thinkers, and mathematicians. They learn to work independently and cooperatively. They learn to manage their time and to assume responsibility. They learn to respect rules and the rights, feelings and property of others. They learn to make choices and decisions, and to question and to take risks. They learn to interact with their environment in a purposeful way. The curriculum is guided by New York State's Common Core Curriculum which can be accessed at <https://www.engageny.org/common-core-curriculum>.

The first grade program at Midland School is child-centered and developmental. Different levels of ability, rates of development and learning styles are expected and accepted. A variety of activities, an interdisciplinary curriculum and meaningful, concrete experiences are provided to

meet the needs of students. The classroom environment is designed to create an atmosphere where children learn through active participation.

### **First Grade Field Trips and Special Events**

Field trips and events are planned by the teachers each year to enhance the curriculum and may change from year to year. Here is a list of typical first grade events and field trips:

Holiday Concert: The first through third grade classes present a holiday concert in December in the auditorium for a parent audience.

Field Trip: Typically the first grade students have a field trip each year.

In School Enrichment: These programs enhance classroom curriculum.

## **SECOND GRADE**

Reading comprehension, writing reports, practicing addition and subtraction math facts and routine spelling tests are all part of second grade. Each second grade classroom typically has a “touch tank” as part of the Marine Life Science Unit, with creatures found in the Long Island Sound.

### **Second Grade Curriculum**

The second grade curriculum builds on the skills learned in earlier grades. In addition, a focus on the memorization of addition and subtraction facts prepares students for beginning multiplication at the end of second grade. Reading comprehension worksheets and nightly reading are a common part of second grade homework. Writing is interdisciplinary. A greater focus on science education is undertaken in part through a Marine Life Science Unit. A field trip to Long Island Sound to collect specimens for the class “touch tank” is followed up with observation of the tank and reports and presentations on ocean animals. As a culminating project for the unit on sound energy, students create their own instruments. A typical social studies unit undertaken in second grade is to study the local community and learn about other types of communities. Map skills are taught throughout the year. Technology is integrated within all areas of the curriculum. The curriculum is guided by New York State’s Common Core Curriculum which can be accessed at <https://www.engageny.org/common-core-curriculum>.

### **Second Grade Field Trips and Special Events**

Field trips and events are planned by the teachers each year to enhance the curriculum and may change from year to year. Here is a list of typical second grade events and field trips:

Holiday Concert: The first through third grade classes present a holiday concert in December in the auditorium for a parent audience.

- Long Island Sound: Each second grade class collects specimens from Long Island Sound for their classroom “touch tank”.
- Maritime Aquarium: The second grade goes to Maritime Aquarium to learn more about ocean animals to support the Marine Life science unit.
- Museum Village: The second grade visits Museum Village in Monroe, New York, to learn about life in the 1800s as part of the social studies curriculum.
- Rye Nature Center: Naturalists from the Rye Nature Center present a lesson to the second graders in the classroom to support the science curriculum.
- Rye Historical Society: Second graders go on field trips to historical places in Rye or participate in demonstrations in their classrooms to support the social studies curriculum.

## **THIRD GRADE**

By third grade, students are making presentations, writing reports, memorizing multiplication tables and learning about the world through science and social studies.

### **Third Grade Curriculum**

The third grade curriculum is interesting and varied. Social studies units focus on geography and culture. Children will explore many genres of literature while practicing comprehension and writing skills. There are four science units around the concepts of CYCLES in the natural world: plants, electricity, the water cycle, and butterflies. Mathematics concepts include addition and subtraction with place value and word problems, geometry, fractions, multiplication and division, measurement and time. The curriculum is guided by New York State’s Common Core Curriculum which can be accessed at <https://www.engageny.org/common-core-curriculum>.

### **Third Grade Field Trips and Special Events**

Field trips and events are planned by the teachers each year to enhance the curriculum and may change from year to year. Here is a list of typical third grade events and field trips:

- Holiday Concert: The first through third grade classes present a holiday concert in December in the auditorium for a parent audience.
- Japan Day: Children are immersed in Japanese culture for a day with a presentation from Japanese parents.
- Westchester Philharmonic: In preparation for the option of learning to play band or orchestral instruments in fourth grade, third grade students usually have the

opportunity to hear the Westchester Philharmonic Orchestra at SUNY Purchase.

Inuit Presentation: Third grade classes participate in a presentation about Inuit culture during their study of the polar regions

### **Third Grade Testing Requirements**

State testing of all public schools required under the No Child Left Behind Act begins in third grade and continues through 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

- New York State English/Language Arts
- New York State Math

## **FOURTH GRADE**

In fourth grade, learning continues in all the core areas. In addition, students begin to focus more on interpretation and synthesizing facts to gain greater understanding of the world around them. In mathematics, the curriculum includes multiplication with two and three digit numbers and long division. As students work on longer term research projects, they learn how to organize their time and resources to complete larger assignments.

### **Fourth Grade Curriculum**

In fourth grade, geography and history of New York State will open students' eyes to the area around them and how local areas have changed and developed over time. Social studies instruction will provide a window into different histories and cultures. Science units focus on organizing ourselves for conducting Science, digestion, nutrients, food chains, food webs, simple machines, and finally organization of the Earth.

In Math 4<sup>th</sup> grade studies fractions, as well as multiple methods of learning multiplication and division which provides students with a choice of methodologies to allow students to adopt mechanisms that work best for them. Skills and concepts in literacy will be channeled throughout the content areas. The curriculum is guided by New York State's Common Core Curriculum which can be accessed at <https://www.engageny.org/common-core-curriculum>.

### **Band, Orchestra and Chorus**

In fourth grade, students have the option to join the band or orchestra and/or the chorus (students can choose to play in the band or orchestra – not both – and/or sing in the chorus).

Instrumental students (band and orchestra) will have a choice of instruments to learn and must register their instrument preference with the band or orchestra teachers at the end of third grade. Instruments may be rented from the school or from an outside rental company (more information will be available from the music teachers). All instrumental students will be pulled out of their classroom activities once per week to take a music lesson with other students playing the same instrument. One morning a week, all band and orchestra students must arrive at school before

8:00 am to participate in a full band or orchestra practice. Chorus students also must arrive at school before 8:00 am once a week for choral practice. In the early fall, music teachers will inform all students and parents which day the band, orchestra or chorus will be practicing.

To play in the band or orchestra in 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades, it is preferred that students begin studying their instrument in 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Although band, orchestra and chorus are optional in the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades, Rye Middle School requires all students to take one of band, orchestra or chorus in 6<sup>th</sup> grade. It is difficult to join the band or orchestra playing an unknown instrument in 6<sup>th</sup> grade. The fourth and fifth grade band, orchestra and chorus typically perform twice a year for the parents – once in December and once in May/June.

### **Fourth Grade Testing Requirements**

The following are state and district assessments administered throughout the year:

- NYS English/Language Arts
- NYS Math
- NYS Science

## **FIFTH GRADE**

Fifth grade is a very busy year for students at Midland, as they prepare to move on to Middle School in sixth grade. American government, the Western Hemisphere, meteorological studies, geology, numerous math concepts, reading literature and several types of writing are some of the varied topics that fifth graders study. Highlights of the year include field trips to Philadelphia and a Broadway play, the performance of the fifth grade musical, and a moving up ceremony and pool party near the end of the year. In addition, fifth graders (and their parents) are prepared for middle school and understanding how the Rye Middle School operates.

### **Fifth Grade Curriculum**

Learning about the development and workings of the American government is a core part of fifth grade social studies. A trip to Philadelphia allows students to experience the key events of our Founding Fathers. The remainder of the year is spent pursuing a comparative study of the Western Hemisphere. The math curriculum continues with more difficult levels of operations, extensive use of fractions, geometry, probability and measurement. The science of the weather begins with hurricane tracking in the fall and continues with a more substantive look at meteorological conditions and how they are caused. Geology, including the formation of the earth and the study of rocks and minerals, is another key science unit. The curriculum is guided by New York State's Common Core Curriculum which can be accessed at <https://www.engageny.org/common-core-curriculum>. The fifth grade teachers have incorporated the use of SMARTBoards into their classrooms using largely self-created materials to match the needs of the curriculum.

### **Band, Orchestra and Chorus**

As in fourth grade, students have the option to continue with the band or orchestra and/or the

chorus (students can choose to play in the band or orchestra – not both – and/or sing in the chorus). Instrumental students (band and orchestra) will have a choice of instruments to learn and must register their instrument preference with the band or orchestra teachers at the end of the previous year. Instruments may be rented from the school or from an outside rental company (more information will be available from the music teachers). All instrumental students will be pulled out of their classroom activities once per week to take a music lesson with other students playing the same instrument. One morning a week, all band and orchestra students must arrive at school before 8:00 am to participate in a full band or orchestra practice. Chorus students also must arrive at school before 8:00 am once a week for choral practice. In the early fall, music teachers will inform all students and parents which day the band, orchestra or chorus will be practicing.

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### **Fifth Grade Field Trips and Special Events**

Specific field trips and events are planned for fifth graders each year to enhance the district-wide curriculum. Also, field trips may be added as needed each year. Here is a list of the fifth grade events and field trips:

#### Band/Orchestra/Chorus

##### Concerts:

The fourth and fifth grade band, orchestra and chorus typically perform twice a year for the parents – once in December and once in May/June. In the spring, the 5<sup>th</sup> grade band, orchestra and chorus of all three Rye City School District elementary schools perform in an evening concert.

##### DARE:

During the fifth grade, the DARE officer from the Rye Police Department comes into fifth grade classrooms to teach the DARE program – **D**rug **A**wareness **R**esistance **E**ducation. Students learn how about the negative effects of drugs and focus on socially acceptable ways to say “NO” to drugs.

##### 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Musical:

In the spring, the fifth grade works together to perform a musical play in which everyone participates. Rehearsals take place after school.

##### Pool Party & Picnic:

In June, the fifth grade enjoys an end-of-year celebration at the Rye Golf Club pool with a pool party and picnic provided by the PTO.

##### 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Moving Up:

The Moving Up ceremony to celebrate the fifth graders’ graduation from Midland takes place during the last week of school.

### **Fifth Grade Testing Requirements**

State testing of all public schools required under the No Child Left Behind Act begins in third grade and continues through 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

- ERB Writing
- New York State English/Language Arts
- New York State Math

## **FROM MIDLAND TO MIDDLE SCHOOL**

To prepare fifth graders for entering the Rye Middle School, Midland and the Middle School work together to assist students and their parents. At Midland School, students are introduced to the Middle School through:

- Visit from Middle School Principal: In winter, the Middle School principal visits each elementary school to discuss the sixth grade program with fifth grade students. The principal also provides students with forms to choose music, language and electives in sixth grade.
- Class rotation: The fifth grade teachers typically plan a modified class rotation for a period in the spring to accustom students to managing different classes and different teachers.
- Tour of Middle School: Toward the end of the school year, fifth grade students have the opportunity to visit Rye Middle School and are provided with a guided tour of the facility.
- Visit from RMS Librarian: The librarian meets with fifth graders to acquaint them with the middle school Summer Reading List.

Parents also receive some information to help them understand the format and curriculum of the Rye Middle School.

- Rye Middle School Handbook: Parents will receive a copy of the Rye Middle School Handbook, outlining the curriculum of the three years of middle school.
- Parent Informational Meeting: The Rye City School District Calendar will list the date and time of an evening meeting intended specifically for parents of entering middle schoolers to hear about the school and sixth grade program from the principal and teachers of the Rye Middle School.

## **STUDENT SERVICES**

### **Health Office**

Midland School has a nurse on-site throughout the school day. The health office also maintains the health and immunization records required for children to attend school in the Rye City School District.

Immunization and Physical Exam Forms: Prior to entering Kindergarten, the health office must have the immunization and physical exam forms signed by your child's physician. In addition, a

health history must be completed and signed by the parent. Updated immunization and physical exam forms must be filed with the health office by the second week in October for students entering 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grades. Physical exam forms filed for the current school year may have been completed at any time during the prior school year. Please ensure that any health-related paperwork is directed to Midland School, Attn: Health Office/Nurse.

Lice Checks: Twice a year a private company is brought in to check all students for head lice.

Student absence due to illness: Please inform the health office any time your child is absent due to illness. Students must be fever-free for 24 hours prior to returning to school. The school nurse can help you determine when your child is ready to return to class. In addition, the nurse must inform other parents of potentially communicable illnesses to watch for.

Student illness during the school day: Teachers will send students with physical symptoms to the school nurse. The school nurse will determine whether the child needs to be picked up from school or can return to class. Please ensure that contact information is filed in the front office for anyone allowed to pick up your child in an emergency.

Medication at school: During the school day, the school nurse can only administer medication provided by parents with a completed *Permission for Medication Administration* form (available from the health office). For class trips, if a child needs medication that they are capable of administering themselves, please fill out an *Authorization for Self-Medication* form and file with the health office.

For further information, or assistance managing your child's health needs at school, please feel free to contact the Midland Health Office.

## **Managing Food Allergies**

Midland School is "nut aware". The Food Service Department, in following the policy of being nut aware, has adopted practices in handling food products that safeguard children against nut allergens. If an item is used that does have the disclaimer it "may contain nuts", that item is posted on a sign in the cafeteria for the lunch aides to see and help them in monitoring what a child with allergies is eating. Food allergies can be life threatening. Although the Rye City School District is not a peanut free school district, numerous precautions can be initiated to minimize risks and provide a safe environment. Please contact the school for a complete copy of the *Nut Allergy Guidelines* for Midland School. The following is a brief summary of how parents can help protect children with allergies at school.

If your child has a nut or other food allergy, notify the school – particularly the nurse, the principal and the food service directory. The school will need written documentation, instructions and medications as directed by your child's physician and emergency contact information. Work with the school district team to develop a plan that accommodates the child's needs throughout the school day, including the classroom, cafeteria, areas of after-school

sponsored activities and any transportation vehicles. Please educate your child in self-management (age appropriate) of their allergy and include discussion of the following:

- Safe foods and how to avoid unsafe foods
- Symptoms of allergic reaction
- How to tell an adult that they may be having an allergy related problem

You are welcome to meet with the Food Service Program Director and school cafeteria staff to review questions regarding the menu, ingredients and available substitutions. Please feel free to discuss field trips, snacks and birthday party treats with the teacher/school to determine an appropriate strategy.

### **School Psychologist**

Midland School has a psychologist on staff who is available to provide support for students, parents, and teachers regarding non-academic issues. She may be able to provide insight and answers to questions about behavioral, emotional and social problems in the classroom as well as some guidance for any family issues that negatively impact on your child's performance at school. The psychologist is also an active participants in the student screening and evaluation process, managing support services and consulting with administrators on organizational issues.

### **Rye Youth Council Advocate**

The Elementary School Advocate works in all of the public schools in Rye offering programs to students and parents that support children while in their classroom and groups and consultations with parents. Stephanie Low works with the third and fourth graders to address issues that deal with their social and emotional development, including cooperative learning, conflict management strategies, and dealing with teasing and bullying. She works closely with teachers and is available to work with classes on any grade level upon request.

### **Reading Recovery Program**

The reading recovery program is an opportunity for students to receive one-on-one or small group reading instruction to ensure that all first graders are reading at or above grade level. Students are pulled out of classes to work with a reading specialist and will receive additional reading homework to assist in their reading development.

### **Academic Intervention Services**

Midland School offers a variety of programs to meet the needs of students based upon the continuum of services designated by the laws of New York State. Academic Intervention Services (AIS) provide additional instruction to assist students in meeting state standards. The services are supplemental to the instruction provided in the regular education classroom. On the 1<sup>st</sup> grade level the Reading Recovery program is an opportunity for students to receive one-on-one reading instruction to ensure that all first graders are reading at or above grade level. Students are pulled out of classes to work with a reading specialist and will receive additional reading homework to assist in their reading development. For students who do not require such

intense support, Learning Center is offered. This is small group instruction that meets 3 times a week to work on developing reading and comprehension skills. For students in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and up who are struggling with the curriculum or are identified as being “at-risk” for failing New York State Assessments, small group instruction and remediation is offered in the areas of language arts and mathematics. Non-Academic AIS support services are also available to students in the form of speech improvement services, counseling with the school psychologist, consultation between the classroom teacher and school psychologist, consultation between the school nurse, classroom teacher, psychologist and parent.

### **English Language Learning (ELL)**

Midland’s ELL (English Language Learner’s) program help students with limited English proficiency to acquire the English skills necessary to be successful in school. English language instruction is provided in the ELL classroom by a certified ELL teacher. These classes may last 45 minutes to an hour, from three to four times a week. ELL students are carefully placed into a group taking into consideration the students’ age, maturity, grade level, and exposure to English to maximize instructional time.

In the ELL classes, students develop their listening, speaking, reading and writing skills by studying different topics and themes. Younger students learn all about families, the weather, foods, animals, and other interesting topics. Older ELL students focus on science and social studies lessons to help them learn both English and subject matter. All students have fun learning about their new school, community, and culture.

### **Special Education Services**

Students are considered disabled under the law when the Committee on Special Education or Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE) determines that your child’s learning difficulties are the result of a disability that adversely affects their educational progress and academic performance. A possible disability is discerned through a multi-disciplinary evaluation, conducted by a range of specialists including a psychologist, a special educator as well as other specialists when appropriate. Eligibility for special education services are determined by the CSE or the CPSE. Children who are classified are placed in the least restrictive support program based upon their individual needs. At Midland such programs include: related services, resource/consultant teacher, resource room, self-contained special class, and out of district programs. Related services include speech/language services, counseling, occupational therapy, and physical therapy.

All families with students receiving special education services are automatically part of the Special Education Parent Teacher Association (SEPTA). SEPTA provides families with another source of information and support in managing your special education child in the school system.

**Midland Elementary School**  
**Rye City School District**  
**Midland Avenue, Rye, NY, 10580**  
**914-967-6100 x.4900**