



## Oceanside Middle School

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Welcome OMS Students and Parents,

Wow, what a difference a year makes! Last year we started school with our 6<sup>th</sup> grade stationed in Rockland for the morning and joining us for their allied arts in the afternoon. In spite of the difficulties, our school came together and did some great community building activities during the year. This year we are going to continue to build our Mariner community, but we are going to do it, as a one campus, a united community.

I know by this point in the summer, students, parents, and school staff are all anxious about the new school year. I would like to take a moment to welcome our incoming 6<sup>th</sup> grade class to your new school which you will share with the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. This is a big step for you and we are going to work hard to make the transition a successful and fun one from the first day to the last day in June. The 6<sup>th</sup> grade student classrooms are in the new addition. The builders have done a wonderful job creating an incredible learning space for our students.

Welcome back to our incoming 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. I hope you have had a fun summer and that you are ready to have a great year at OMS. You will notice some changes upon your arrival, but there will be plenty of familiar faces to greet you on our first day.

Speaking of our first day, we will be starting school on August 28<sup>th</sup> which is on a Monday. You should arrive at school by 7:20 am so that you don't miss any first day activities. Students in 6<sup>th</sup> grade will report to the cafeteria. If you are not sure where that is, don't worry, we will have staff assisting you as you arrive. The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be reporting to the gym before school. If the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders need breakfast you will pick that up in the cafeteria and then report to the gym. If your child rides a bus you can find schedule information on the district web page.

We ask that as the school year gets underway that students who walk or get dropped off by parents do so after 7:00 am if at all possible. This helps us with early morning supervision. We appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

Students will receive their schedules on the first day, in their homerooms. If there are any issues with the schedules we will do our best to fix them in the first couple of days. We do ask that you are patient as we work through any scheduling issues.

Please remember that students should dress for school success and wear appropriate clothing. If you have any questions, please refer to our handbook which on our district web page.

Cell phones will be permitted to be used before and after school as well as during lunch. Please understand that if a student is struggling to use their cell phone in an appropriate manner during this time or is using it outside of the listed times the student will lose the privilege of using the phone.

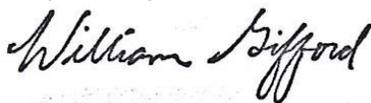
We would ask that if a child is going to be dismissed that parents call the school directly and speak with Ms. Barstow or Ms. Stone. Last year, we had students contacting parents to be dismissed and the office was not aware of the dismissal until the parent showed up at school. If the office does not know that a child has contacted a parent it can cause a delay in getting the student, especially if the student is outside of the school for gym or another activity.

Last, we struggled with students riding the appropriate busses at the end of the day. This became an issue when students did not show up at the right location after school. We ask that you send a written note or an email if your child is not going to take their regular bus home.

The district will be continuing to renovate and work on creating our school of the future at OMS, starting this fall. The renovation work that took place over the summer was only the start of the necessary work. We will do our best to inform you of this very important work throughout the year. We are very excited about the opportunities that our new spaces will provide for us once it is complete.

The OMS staff looks forward to working with all our students as we get ready to set sail on our second year of discovery and adventure.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William Gifford". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "W" and "G".

Bill Gifford  
OMS Principal