



SAXE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Mr. David Gusitsch, *Principal*
Mr. Steven Bedard, *Asst. Principal*
Dr. Julia Ferreira, *Asst. Principal*
Ms. Sarah Granite, *Asst. Principal*
Ms. Vanessa Visners, *Special Education*

August 17, 2022

Dear Saxe Students and Families,

Welcome back to the 2022-23 school year! It is my hope that you have spent your summer relaxing, recharging, and enjoying some time with those that you care about the most. We have been busy this summer preparing for the upcoming school year and are excited to continue providing the best experience possible for our students and their families. It is a true honor and privilege to serve as principal of Saxe Middle School in this wonderful town of New Canaan and I am humbled to be surrounded by some of the absolute best professionals in our field!

Many of our Saxe and NCPS staff work all summer and are tirelessly committed to our building and resources being the best they can possibly be. Upon their return, our students will notice that the floors are shining, the windows are clean, and every room, office, and space is ready to be filled. Some of the ongoing larger-scale projects continue with some of the floors being replaced, some new sidewalks, and our outdoor learning center work is underway. We even have an Eagle Scout project that has been completed that will be ready to be used in several of our outdoor learning spaces. We look forward to sharing these exciting upgrades with you in our ongoing communications and as we welcome you back into the building for upcoming scheduled events! A huge **“Thank you!”** goes out to our tremendous custodial, maintenance, technology, secretarial, and administrative team members. I know I may be biased, but we are blessed with the best teams a school could possibly ask for!

The recent adjustment in healthy school start times will also mean that we will be adapting some of our operations. Below is a quick outline. Transportation, buses, and routing have all been carefully assessed and improved to assist with the change in start times as they relate to traffic on our campus, and in between our schools. We are strongly encouraging all families to walk, bike, or use our buses to help minimize traffic congestion during start and end times. For those who must drive, please be sure to review our [morning drop-off procedures](#) to help keep everyone safe and traffic flowing.

	School Day	Doors open for walk, bike, drop-off	*Clubs/Extracurriculars
Upper Division (Grades 7&8)	8:00 - 2:30	7:40 a.m.	2:45 - 3:45
Lower Division (Grades 5&6)	9:15 - 3:45	8:55 a.m.	8:15 - 9:00

* Clubs and Extracurricular activities begin in the beginning of October. More info will be sent in the coming weeks! [Right at School](#) is also an option that is still available, before school, for our 5th & 6th grade students.

Whether you are new to our school or have been with us for several years, you will notice that our work is always grounded in what is most important for the members of our learning community. Since our



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return for the 2020-21 school year, we have chosen one word that helped us remain focused on a theme throughout the year. For good reason, ***Caring*** and ***Community*** were our last two, respectively. Building on the work that we have been committed to, the word ***Connected*** will be at the centerpiece of our endeavors. Connected to our teachers, connected to our families, connected to our school, connected to our community, and most importantly, connected to ourselves and one another. In addition to embedding this throughout our work, this aligns nicely with our emphasis on educating the whole child and the ongoing EI work that benefits us all. We will work to strike a balance that allows us to remain healthy, happy, safe, well, resilient, and able to learn and grow in an optimal manner.

At the beginning of each year, we pose a question to reflect as we optimistically transition into the new school year. This year, we ask, “***How do you hope to ‘connect’ to our learning community this year?***”. For those of you who wish to share, please answer a couple of quick optional questions, [here](#). Responses will be reviewed, used to plan, and at the appropriate times, anonymously shared so we can be reminded of, and *celebrate*, all that we have to be grateful for. This form may also be used to pose any questions that you may have as well.

As is the case each year, we open our arms to warmly welcome our newest staff members. We also welcome returning staff members into new or revised roles. This year, please join in welcoming:

New Staff:			
<i>Ms. Barcia</i>	G7 Science	<i>Officer Blank</i>	School Resource Officer
<i>Ms. Connaughton</i>	Sp. Educ. Secretary	<i>Mr. DeVito</i>	Building Sub
<i>Ms. Donovan</i>	G5 Special Education	<i>Ms. Falcone</i>	Building Sub
<i>Mr. Fiorillo</i>	G5 SS/Math	<i>Ms. Garnett</i>	LD School Counselor
<i>Ms. Greto</i>	Teen Talk Counselor	<i>Dr. Holley</i>	K-12 Director of WL/ELL
<i>Ms. Holmes</i>	Social Work Intern	<i>Ms. Iwansky</i>	Art
<i>Ms. Johnson</i>	G8 Special Education	<i>Ms. Kiall</i>	Latin
<i>Ms. Lazor</i>	Maternity Leave Sub	<i>Ms. Levine</i>	Spanish
<i>Ms. Prinz</i>	G7 Math	<i>Ms. Roberts</i>	School Psychologist
Returning in a new role:			
<i>Ms. Cromwell</i>	G5 Special Education	<i>Ms. Fraccaroli</i>	French (pt)



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Ms. Pallisco	G7 Special Education	Dr. Paradise	G6 Special Education
Ms. Rovinelli	G5 Science	Mr. White	Math Specialist

We are rounding out some of our final hires and will be excited to announce them soon as well. To all of our new staff, ***“Welcome to our Saxe Family”!***

Below you will find important dates and information regarding our return to school. More details, (including [grade-level supply lists](#)), may also be found on our [website](#) &/or the [Saxe PTC website](#):

Monday, 8/22	Powerschool Portal opens to view schedules/classes <i>(Directions to access PowerSchool may be found using this link).</i>	Late afternoon
Tuesday, 8/23	Grades 6, 7, 8 New Student Orientation	12:00 (G6); 2:00 (G7,G8)
Wednesday, 8/24	*Grade 5 Meet the Teacher	11:00 a.m.
	Grade 5 New to New Canaan Tour	12:00 p.m.
Monday, 8/29	<i>Welcome Back Saxe students!</i>	<i>8:00/9:15 a.m.</i>
Tuesday, 9/13	Saxe PTC Welcome Back Coffee @ Waveny	10:30 a.m

* For more Grade 5 specific information, you are welcome to revisit the [recent communication from Ms. Granite](#).
 (More detailed information about specific events (Open House, Parent Coffees, Photo Day, etc.) will be sent out in the near future).

There are many moving parts that make a school building come alive and provide a rich learning experience for all of our students. We foster a balance between academics, the arts, and extracurricular activities. Whatever the chosen path for each individual student, it is our intent to nurture and grow *good people* who care about one another and their community. Every stakeholder matters and each plays a role in making up Saxe Middle School. We *are* Saxe Middle School and we want to provide the *best*, safest, most well-rounded, experience possible for our entire learning community!

In addition to the above information, we will be celebrating our Saxe students, staff, and activities through our weekly newsletter ([saxems.com](#)), our [website](#), and our Twitter handle, [@SaxeMS](#). I look forward to connecting, or reconnecting, with each of you over the course of the year.

Wishing you a wonderful remainder of your summer and we look forward to seeing you soon,

Mr. David M. Gusitsch
 Principal, Saxe Middle School