



# MESSALONSKEE MIDDLE SCHOOL

*Belgrade – China – Oakland – Sidney - Rome*

November 9, 2015

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Dear Families,

I am writing to you today to share our first progress report of the school year and to share with you how we will be celebrating student excellence this year. Included in this mailing is a copy of your child's progress report and a letter from Carl Gartley, our Chief Academic Officer. Mr. Gartley's letter explains the Empower report as well as our plans for future progress reporting. You will receive a progress report each quarter of the year. The next report will be mailed to you on January 27, 2016.

**Mark Hatch**  
*Principal*

Over the past few years we have been modifying how we celebrate student success at Messalonskee Middle School. We started a Student of the Month program that recognizes students who exemplify certain Habits of Mind. We announce "Friday High Fives" each week to celebrate different positive contributions that students make at MMS. We also have a yearly Celebration of Excellence in May to which students are invited if they have met criteria set by our staff. Since May of last year, I have worked with student groups and our school's Leadership Team to develop a set of criteria to recognize students' academic performance at MMS. This year we have aligned our celebration with the number of learning goals your child has worked on this year and the level of proficiency that they have attained. Below is an explanation of the criteria that your child needs to achieve to be invited to the celebration and the three different awards that will be given out on that night. In order to fully understand this system, you need to know three terms.

**Melanie Smith**  
*Assistant Principal*

**Learning Goal** - Learning goals are also referred to as learning targets. These are parts of the curriculum that students certify proficiency on as they work throughout the year. Students complete tasks and receive scores that lead them to become proficient on the learning goal. Typically, students will perform 3-5 tasks to show proficiency on a learning goal.

**John Lisa**  
*Athletic Administrator,  
Messalonskee Middle School*

**Proficiency Score** - Students receive a score of a 1, 2, 3 or 4 on tasks and learning goals to show their level of proficiency. A score of 3 is the target we are working toward and a score of 4 exceeds the standard expectation. Students receive scores of 1 or 2 as they are introduced to and learn new information.

**Sue Bradshaw**  
*Guidance Counselor*

**Experience Points (XP)** - Student groups developed a set of points that students would accumulate during the year. It includes all scores of 2, 3 and 4 on all learning goals they worked on. Students receive 2 XP for every 2 they score on a learning goal. They receive 3 XP for every 3 they score on a learning goal. Students felt that a 4 required more work, drive, and effort so they felt that students should receive 5 XP for every 4 they score on a learning goal. All these scores add up to the students total XP for the year.

| Proficiency Score | Experience Point Value |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| 1                 | 0                      |
| 2                 | 2                      |
| 3                 | 3                      |
| 4                 | 5                      |

**Kris Croteau**  
*Guidance Counselor*

We will be giving out three levels of awards this year. The first is the Honors award which will be given to students who have accumulated a minimum of 140 XP in the first three quarters of the year. The second is the High Honors award which is given to students who have accumulated at least 200 XP and have reached proficiency level 4 in at least 7 learning goals in the first three quarters. The third level is High Honors with Distinction award which will be given to students who have accumulated at least 240 XP and 11 learning goals at a level 4 in the first three quarters of the year. If a student earns more than 200XP but does not earn a minimum of 7 scores at the 4 level he or she will be recognized at the Honors award level.

| Level of Recognition         | Criteria needed  |
|------------------------------|--|
| Honors                       | Minimum of 140 XP  |
| High Honors                  | At least 200 XP and Minimum of 7 learning goals at a proficiency score of 4  |
| High Honors with Distinction | At least 240 XP and Minimum of 11 learning goals at a proficiency score of 4 |



Below are two charts that show examples of how students XP will be calculated.

| <b>Student A<br/>High Honors Example</b> | <b>Number of Learning<br/>Goals</b> | <b>Experience points/<br/>score</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Learning Goals at score 2</b>         | 5                                   | 2                                   | 10           |
| <b>Learning Goals at score 3</b>         | 38                                  | 3                                   | 114          |
| <b>Learning Goals at score 4</b>         | 9                                   | 5                                   | 45           |
| <b>Total</b>                             |                                     |                                     | <b>169</b>   |

| <b>Student B<br/>Honors Example</b> | <b>Number of Learning<br/>Goals</b> | <b>Experience points/<br/>score</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Learning Goals at score 2</b>    | 5                                   | 2                                   | 10           |
| <b>Learning Goals at score 3</b>    | 38                                  | 3                                   | 114          |
| <b>Learning Goals at score 4</b>    | 3                                   | 5                                   | 15           |
| <b>Total</b>                        |                                     |                                     | <b>139</b>   |

Students who reach Honors level or above will receive an invitation to the Celebration of Excellence which takes place on May 16, 2016. Our teachers have worked with your children to help them understand the benchmarks. If you have any questions, please speak with your children or reach out to a teacher.

Sincerely,



Mark Hatch