

October 4, 2011

Dear Parents,

For several years, sixth grade students have taken part in an activity program referred to as **EXPO**. **EXPO** is a three-day residential, outdoor program held at **Camp Jewell YMCA Camp** in Colebrook, CT, and **Ivoryton Incarnation Center**, in Ivoryton, CT. It is a field trip which, though optional, is one in which almost all sixth graders participate. This year, **Red and Bronze team** students will experience Expo at **Ivoryton** and **Orange and Silver team** students will be at **Colebrook**. **Non-participating students will have an adjusted program at Middlesex**. This letter is an introduction to "EXPO."

This year's program will take place **November 21-23 (Monday-Wednesday)**. Please note that we are scheduled to **return to Weed Beach on Wednesday at 12:00 noon**. Students will participate in varied team activities with an emphasis on environmental awareness and the outdoors which also connect to the 6<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum. Specific activities include field walks, indoor classes, confidence-building group challenges, and evening activities.

Students and teachers reside in cabins, and students will be supervised 24 hours a day. Supervision will be provided by Middlesex, Camp Jewell/ Incarnation Center, and Nature's Classroom, with a staffing ratio of one to twelve. There is also a full time administrative staff and a registered nurse on duty or on call at all times.

Meals are prepared by a permanent kitchen staff and are served family style in a dining hall. Special dietary needs, when noted on the medical form, will be honored. Feel free to contact the trip coordinators listed below.

Students will be physically active while at Expo. No physical exam is required, though you may wish to consult your physician about specific health concerns. These concerns, when brought to our attention, will guide us in planning student activities. A specific **medical form**, completed by parents, is part of the registration packet. State regulations require that a physician's **signed order must accompany prescription medications**. (Refer to Medical Sheets attached).

A clothing and equipment checklist can be found on the MMS website, and a hard copy will be passed out closer to the trip date. Care should be taken in supplying appropriate and ample footwear and pants. Clothing should be chosen for comfort, warmth, and durability, rather than style.

Telephones are available. Students are asked not to use them, however, and parents are asked not to call, except for emergency situations. **PLEASE DO NOT SEND CELL PHONES WITH YOUR STUDENTS.**

**The cost of this field trip is \$230.00 and covers bus fare, insurance, room and board. (Checks should be made payable to MIDDLESEX MIDDLE SCHOOL.)** Partial and full scholarships are available and requests for such should be discussed with your child's guidance counselor.

Further information will be provided upon request from Ms. Trish Valentine and Mr. Dan Kensek, EXPO coordinators.

Attached are registration forms. Please complete and return them to homeroom teachers by **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19TH**. Please contact us if you have questions or concerns.

Thank you.

Trish Valentine (Ext 3444) and Dan Kensek (Ext 3478)