

## Hopkinton Middle School IGNITE Program

June 3, 2008

Dear Parent of an Incoming 6<sup>th</sup> Grader,

We are very excited that your child will be attending the Hopkinton Middle School in September and we look forward to meeting you at our orientation for incoming 6<sup>th</sup> grade parents on Thursday, August 28 in the Middle School auditorium. Due to parent feedback, the parent portion of the IGNITE orientation will be shorter than last year's. We will share information about the Middle School and attempt to give you a flavor of what your sixth grader will be experiencing during the orientation with 8<sup>th</sup> grade IGNITE Leaders and Mr. Howard. The parent portion of the day is optional. We understand parents have work commitments and may have younger siblings at home that require attention. Yet, we encourage you to attend. If we do not see you on August 28, we look forward to meeting you at the Middle School "Back to School Night" scheduled for September 10.

We are extremely energized to meet your child at our IGNITE Orientation Day on August 28. Last year was our inaugural 6<sup>th</sup> grade IGNITE orientation. We were pleased that 250+ students attended voluntarily and the orientation exceeded even our own expectations. Sixth grade teachers have also commented that this year's 6<sup>th</sup> graders seemed more comfortable and better adjusted this past fall than in previous years.

The IGNITE sixth grade orientation and transition program is designed to both welcome and support sixth graders by assigning them to a small group led by 1-2 IGNITE Leaders as mentors during their first year of middle school. IGNITE leaders are responsible 8<sup>th</sup> grade students selected from a large pool of applicants and all meet the qualifications of being a good role model and a positive leader on our campus. The following is some information to let you know what you and your child can expect in advance of her/his first day of school:

- 1) Your student can expect to receive an invitation to the Sixth Grade Orientation Day in the mail. If an invitation has not arrived by August 21, email Keith Verra, sixth grade guidance counselor, at [kverra@hopkinton.k12.ma.us](mailto:kverra@hopkinton.k12.ma.us)
- 2) A day or two before the orientation, your child will also receive a phone call from his or her IGNITE Leader personally inviting your student to orientation day and giving details of where to be and what time to arrive.
- 3) Your student is encouraged NOT to bring backpacks, purses, school supplies or other like items for the orientation day.
- 4) Lunch will not be served. We will provide snack and water during the orientation program
- 5) Because the day is active, please make sure that you and your student wear comfortable clothing that does not restrict movement and can be worn inside and outside.

The students only orientation will take place in the Brown Gymnasium led by the eighth grade IGNITE Leaders, Mr. Bill Howard and Mr. Evren Gunduz from 9AM – 11:30AM. The parent orientation will take place in the Middle School auditorium led by Mr. Geoff Bruno and Mr. Keith Verra from 9AM- 10:30AM.

We look forward to meeting you and your student on orientation day!

The IGNITE Coordinators.