

# Sharon Middle School

## SMS Weekly Newsletter - 5.1.2020



### IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

**Music Changes due TODAY**  
- 5/1/2020

More info to the right.

**Chat & Chew**  
with Ms. Clark

6th Grade - Monday 5/4  
7th Grade - Wed., 5/6

**What's up With Nature?**  
With Mr. Ripley  
Every Thursday at noon.

**Mr. Balan's Daily Check-In**  
1:00-1:30 daily

**Free Meals for ages 0-18**  
Mon - Wed - Fri  
Pick-up at SMS - Breakfast  
& Lunch for 7 days  
9:30am - 10:30am

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### Questions?

If you have any general questions, please contact our Administrative Assistants:

[Cheri Shuffain](#)  
[Karen Wald](#)

For more specific information about

Currently there is no student or staff access to the building. We realize students have items in their lockers. The district is developing a plan to retrieve these items once the state mandated stay-at-home advisory has been lifted. The SMS community will be notified when this plan is in place.

Please see the [district website for the latest updates on the COVID-19 Coronavirus.](#)

### Remote Learning Survey

On April 28, Dr. Greer sent an email looking for feedback from the entire school community regarding remote learning in Sharon. The information you share will assist us as we monitor and plan for the remainder of the school year. We hope that you will find time in your schedule to complete this [short survey](#).

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) has provided a list of [Educational Resources for Students and Families](#) that might be helpful during this time of remote learning.

### Zoom Safety

Due to the unfortunate new phenomenon of "zoombombing", we are instituting updated protocol for all zoom classes and meetings.

Students need to use the passwords provided by their teachers, enter their first and last names on their screens, and show their faces for at least 5 seconds to be allowed to enter the zoom. Students without this identification will not be allowed into the zoom.

**IMPORTANT: Please do not re-post zoom links on any social media platform.**

### DUE MAY 1st TODAY!!!

### Music Changes for 6th & 7th graders for 2020-2021

We encourage children to remain in their current music classes during their Middle School years to gain the full benefit of each curriculum.

curriculum, Zoom class meetings, or other school information, please contact your child's teacher or reach out to our Assistant Principal, [Ms. Clark](#), or our Coordinator of Special Education, [Ms. Abrams](#).

However, it is understood that there may be circumstances that necessitate change. If your child needs to change to a different music class next year, send an email to your child's current music teacher to let them know no later than ***Friday May 1st***.

Ms. Ethier: [LEthier@sharonschools.net](mailto:LEthier@sharonschools.net)

Mr. Greely: [TGreely@sharonschools.net](mailto:TGreely@sharonschools.net)

Mr. Votolato: [RVotolato@sharonschools.net](mailto:RVotolato@sharonschools.net)

***If your child will stay in the same music class, you do not need to contact their music teacher.***

### **Ms. Clark's Chat & Chews are Back Virtually!**

Log on or dial in to have lunch with Ms. Clark! Say hello for a few minutes or stay 30 minutes. She looks forward to seeing you! This coming week, she invites 6th graders only to join in. Check your Schoology messages every Monday for the next dates and times because it will probably change each week.

Here's next week's schedule:

#### **Ms. Clark's Chat & Chew - 6th grade**

Tuesday, May 5, 2020 12:00-12:30 p.m.

[Email Ms. Wald for Zoom link](#)

#### **Ms. Clark's Chat & Chew - 7th Grade**

Time: Wednesday, May 8, 2020 12:00-12:30 p.m.

[Email Ms. Wald for Zoom link](#)

### **Taking Care of You & Yours**

As a staff, we are regularly discussing how to take care of ourselves, our families and our students from a distance. We'd like to share with you some resources that might help you do the same:

#### **School Adjustment Counselor -**

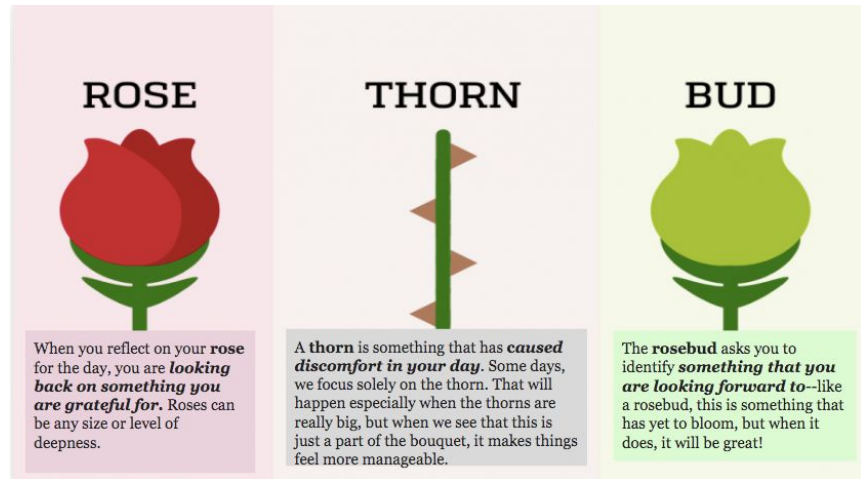
#### **Mr. Balan's Daily Check-In - 1:00-1:30 daily.**

Send an email to [Mr. Balan](#) for the Zoom link.

Mr. Balan has also put together a few [5 minute Meditation Videos](#) that you can do with your family. Please share any that you have with him at [mbalan@sharonschools.net](mailto:mbalan@sharonschools.net).

## Rose, Thorn, Bud

Ms. Conners shared this mindfulness activity with the staff this week that is easily implemented at home.



## Socio-emotional Support for Students

During this trying time, we are most concerned about your child's socio-emotional health. Please be advised that our guidance counselors and school adjustment counselors are available and eager to support your child in this area. Please contact them for support.

### Guidance Counselors:

Grade 6 Meaghan Merrigan - [mmerrigan@sharonschools.net](mailto:mmerrigan@sharonschools.net)

Grade 7 Christopher Walsh - [cwalsh@sharonschools.net](mailto:cwalsh@sharonschools.net)

Grade 8 Rebecca Sisitsky - [rsisitsky@sharonschools.net](mailto:rsisitsky@sharonschools.net)

Marybeth Walsh - [mwalsh@sharonschools.net](mailto:mwalsh@sharonschools.net)

## Concerned about Vaping?

Westwood-Mansfield Pediatrics Associates hasp provides information and education for families and teens in efforts to reduce occurrences of vaping. Here are a few:

- [Smoking, Vaping and COVID-19](#)
- [Smoking, Vaping and COVID-19: the Connection and How to Quit](#)
- [Smoking and E-cigarette Use Put Individuals at Increased Risk of Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) from Westwood-Mansfield Pediatrics](#)
- <https://www.parentsagainstvaping.org/>

## PowerSchool and Schoology & Credit Guidelines

**Schoology** - Students are expected to log on to Schoology or Google Classroom (teacher dependent) for class information, learning opportunities, assignments and information about online engagement.

Parents can click on the following link to help control the number of notifications they receive from Schoology.

<https://support.schoology.com/hc/en-us/articles/201000803-Personal-Account-Parent-Notifications>

[SMS Credit Guidelines During School Closure](#)

### ***What's up with Nature? - Join Mr. Ripley on Zoom***

Please join Mr. Ripley for the next edition of "What's up with Nature?" Every Thursday at 12:00pm. Mr. Ripley will lead a discussion about the many critters that live in our backyards.

[Send an email to Ms. Wald for the zoom link.](#)

### **SMS Library Resources for At Home Learning**

Please visit the [Library Webpage](#) for access to ebook, audiobooks, podcasts, and more. In most cases, access to the normally paid for content will be available until the end of June. Don't miss out!

### **Sharon Public Schools - Serving Free Meals to Any Child 0-18**

**Where:** Sharon Middle School

**When:** Monday - Wednesday - Friday (Breakfast & Lunch for 7 days)

**Time:** 9:30am - 10:30am

Place a sign in the passenger window of your vehicle indicating the number of children for whom you are getting meals.

Please do not exit your vehicle; a staff member will place the meals in your vehicle.

### **Math Specialist help**

Ms. Fox will be offering extra math help for **any student** who needs it! She is offering weekly Zoom hours which will be posted on the math teacher's websites. The schedule is as follows:

8th grade is Tuesdays from 1-2:15

6th grade is Thursday from 12:30 - 2

7th grade on Friday from 12:30-2.

Students can stop by any time during those hours for as long as they need with any math questions they have. Ms. Fox is also available if a student needs more one on one help. Email her at

[mfox@sharonschools.net](mailto:mfox@sharonschools.net) or send a message on Schoology to schedule an appointment.

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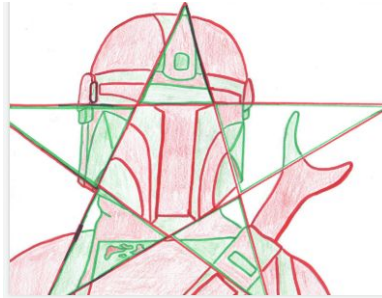
# ~ SMS Virtual Gallery ~

## Ms. Coco's Artists of the Week

Grade 6 - Anna Abramyan -  
Self Caricature



Grade 7 - Sava Kassev -  
Creative Fictional Character  
Portrait



Grade 8 - Anna Voronova -  
Creative Portrait entitled " Cool  
Garfield"



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## Mr. Ripley's "Trailside Videos" series:

Harry the Whitetail Buck! Check out the latest Trailside Video [here](#):

You can see the antlers starting to grow on this old Whitetail buck I call Harry. They will continue to grow until September and then fall off sometime after December 1st. Harry was a big 10 point last year. Antlers are one of the fastest growing tissues in all of Nature. Let's see how big his antlers grow this year! Hopefully he will walk in front of the trail cameras I have set up and we will be able to monitor his antler growth in the next couple months.



**Sharon Middle School**

75 Mountain Street, Sharon, MA

[SMS Website](#) [Instagram](#) [Twitter](#)

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