

# Sharon Middle School

## SMS Weekly Newsletter - 5.8.2020



### IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

**QuaranTube Video Contest!**  
Deadline is Friday, 5/22

**Chat & Chew with Ms. Clark**  
Every Monday at 12noon - 8th Grade  
Every Wednesday at 12noon - 6th Grade  
Every Friday at 12noon - 7th Grade

**What's up With Nature? With Mr. Ripley**  
Every Tuesday and 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

**SMS Library Resources for At Home Learning**  
Please visit the [Library Webpage](#) for access to ebook, audiobooks, podcasts, and more. In

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.](#)

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.

### QuaranTube Video Contest!

Hey students!!! Have a cool skill you want to show off? Can you make a cool trick shot? Have a favorite Tok Tok dance? Play an Instrument? Well, Student Council is looking to highlight the amazing talents of Sharon Middle School with our video contest! Deadline is Friday, May 22nd. If you'd like to participate, please [click here for all the details!](#)

## Zoom Expectations for SMS Students

Due to ongoing security concerns you must:

1. Use your complete first and last name when in a Zoom meeting.
  - a. If you are using an account of a parent or another family member, please let your teacher know so that we can note this for the future.
2. Have your video ON for at least 30 seconds in order for the teacher confirm that it is you that is logged-in.
3. We request that your video remains on and that you are actively involved in the meeting. It is very difficult to communicate using Zoom when people are not virtually present.
4. If you are not comfortable with keeping the video on, please email beforehand or privately chat with us to let us know!
5. DO NOT record any Zoom meetings, and DO NOT share the meeting link with anyone else.
6. Do not change the background or your avatar during the meeting.

most cases, access to the normally paid for content will be available until the end of June. Don't miss out!

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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 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.

### Ms. Clark's Chat & Chews - Weekly!

Enjoy lunch with Ms. Clark at her weekly half-hour Chat & Chews. Here's the schedule:

- Every Monday at 12noon - 8th Grade
- Every Wednesday at 12noon - 6th Grade
- Every Friday at 12noon - 7th Grade

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

### Concerned about your child and Social Media use?

Check out this webinar by [smartsocial.com](#). Lots of parent friendly resources and information on social media also available.

<https://smartsocial.com/social-media-webinar/>

### Helpful Site for Dealing with Student Mental Health and Wellbeing

The following site offers many suggestions for dealing with your children during the pandemic. There are multiple links with suggestions for staying busy, having fun, and self care.

<https://sites.google.com/arlington.k12.ma.us/mentalhealthandwellbeing/students>

### 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.

### 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)

### 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***

**\*\*Now 2x per week\*\***

Please join Mr. Ripley for the next edition of "What's up with Nature?" Every **Tuesday and 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.](#)

**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 is offering extra math help for **any student** who needs it! Her weekly Zoom hours are 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 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 ~*

***Mr. Ripley's "Trailcam Videos" series:***

**Red Fox Mom!**

[Click here for the link.](#)

This is the time of year when many animals in our backyards are welcoming new family members into the world. In this video, a red fox mom is trying to clean her little pup while another one plays in the distance. She then goes inside the den to check on the others. There's lots of activity in their temporary home under someone's porch. Keep your eyes open out there! Lots of things are going on right now!

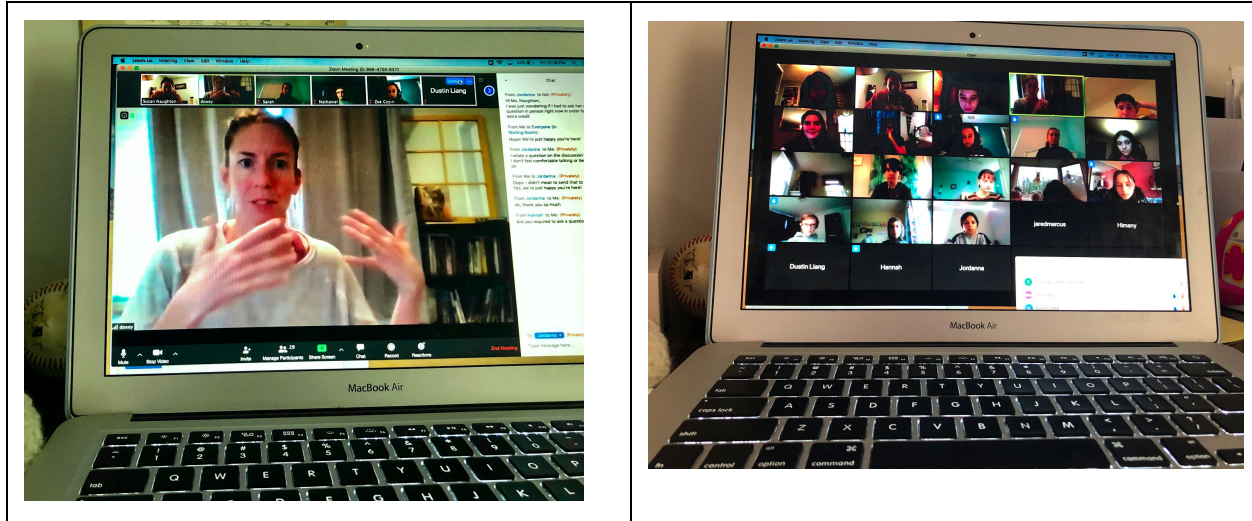
*Come visit Mr. Ripley on Zoom! Tuesdays and Thursdays at noon!*

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



## **Special Guest Zoom for 8B Poetry Unit**

As part of our poetry unit, students on team 8B had the opportunity to Zoom with Colorado poet Joanna Doxey. Joanna talked with the students about her background, her successes and challenges writing poetry and shared a poem from her book, [Plainspeak, WY](#). Students had the opportunity to ask questions and two lucky students were selected to receive feedback on their poems from Joanna!



## **Special Staff Meeting Guest - Callie Wald**



**Sharon Middle School**  
75 Mountain Street, Sharon, MA  
[SMS Website](#) [Instagram](#) [Twitter](#)

781-784-1560 Main#

781-784-1560 x1 Absence Line

781-784-8432 FAX