Dear Parent/Guardian:

We would like to welcome you and your child to Chittenango Middle School. Enclosed we have provided you with some helpful information. Please feel free to call the office at (315) 687-2800, if you have any questions.

Arnold Merola Jr., Principal-Grades 5-8
Meghan Samsel, Administrative Intern 5-8

For more information, please visit our website at www.chittenangoschools.org
**Arrival:** 5 - 8 students can arrive between 7:20 - 7:30 AM. Please do not drop off your child before 7:20 AM. Students begin their academic tasks at 7:33 AM. Students should arrive at school no later than 7:30 AM. We encourage you to use our school transportation system daily.

**Tardiness:** Prompt arrival at school is expected of all children. Late arrival disrupts class and causes loss of instructional time. Any children arriving after 7:30 AM need to be signed in. The student will then be issued a Tardy Pass to enter his/her classroom. This also applies to children coming in late from the doctor or dentist.

**Dismissal:** Students are dismissed at 2:12 PM. If you need to pick up your child earlier, please send a note to school with your child or call the school office. If you need to pick your child up at any time during the school day, please come to the office, sign them out, and ask that they be called from class.

**Parking:** Please be aware that there should be no parking in the bus loop in the back parking lot while picking up your student. It is illegal to park in the no parking area. Parking in the bus loop area also blocks our buses from loading the students and leaving the school.

Please be considerate of others while picking up your child and park in the designated student pick up area in the back parking lot. Students should use the crosswalk to get to your vehicle.

**Rotation Calendar:** The Chittenango Middle School operates on a nine period day schedule with a rotation of A and B Days. If, for example, Tuesday is an A Day, Wednesday will be a B Day. However, if school is closed on Wednesday due to a snow day or a scheduled day off, Thursday would become a B Day. Extra academic assistance and various activities/clubs are held during tenth period. This period ends at 2:50 PM and buses are available for students to use.

**Bus Passes:** When it is necessary for your child to ride another bus home in the afternoon, a specific, written request must be sent to the school with your child. This written request must state the reason for your child to take another bus, where she/he is going (name and address), and the bus number she/he is to ride. Incidences of students riding other buses should be kept to a minimum, i.e., they should be requested for child care.

**Absences:** Regular school attendance is critical to a student’s academic success. All absences and tardies must be reported by calling the school at (315)687-2800.

**Excused Absences** are absences or tardies due to personal illness, family illness, a death in the family, religious observance, education, and/or appointments with doctors, dentists, or other health professionals.

We are required to have on file a written excuse from the parent or guardian giving the specific reason for the absence. The excuse should be sent to school with your child on the day of his/her return.

**Toys and Electronics:** All toys, cards, and electronic devices should be left at home. School is not responsible for lost, damaged, or stolen items.

**Item drop-off:** Although students are encouraged to become responsible for their own belongings, we realize that on occasion an item may have to be delivered to a student from home. We ask that parents do not go to classrooms or lockers to drop things off for their children. Those items can be left in the office, and we’ll see that the students get them. We try to avoid interrupting instructional lessons in classrooms.

**Medications:** You cannot send any medication with your child to school. If you need to get medication to the school, a parent/guardian must bring it to school or you may give it to the bus driver with your child’s name on it. The nurse will walk out to the bus to bring it into the school. No medication is to be brought to school by a student. Medications are not permitted in the classrooms.

**Breaks and Lunches:** Students are able to purchase breakfast, lunch, drinks, or snack from our cafeteria. Please see our website for pricing and more information.

Many of our students take advantage of free or reduced meals. Applications are available in the main office.

**The Middle School Counseling Program** is designed to assist students with academic achievement, social and emotional growth and development, and future goal setting and planning. School counseling is a combined effort between home, school, and community.

The Middle School Counseling Program provides the following services:

- Individual Counseling
- Peer Support Groups
- Parent Conferences
- Team Meeting and Consultation
- Peer Mediation Program
- Parent Programs
- High School Student Mentor Program
- Student Buddy Program
- Academic Support

**Correspondence:** Communication between school and home is vital for your child’s academic success. A monthly newsletter is sent home at the beginning of each month offering a wide variety of upcoming events and information. Please email or call your child’s teacher if you have any problems or concerns regarding your child’s education. Visit our website through www.chittenangoschools.org to access more information on activities and upcoming events.