

PATCHOGUE-MEDFORD SCHOOLS
SOUTH OCEAN MIDDLE SCHOOL
SOUTH OCEAN AVENUE
PATCHOGUE, NY 11772

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 32
PATCHOGUE, NY 11772

South Ocean Middle School



September 2009

*Linda Pickford
Principal*



Important Telephone Numbers

Main Office (7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.) 687-6600
Guidance Office (8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) 687-6620
Nurse's Office (8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.) 687-6610
Transportation (7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.) 687-6460
Pupil Services (8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) 687-6440

School Closing Information Line 687-6400

CAN WE HELP?

Home/School collaboration is a major key to student success. Situations will certainly arise in the course of the school year in which a parent will want to call the school. Most times, the first call should be made directly to the classroom teachers, since the teacher will most likely have the information needed, and they work directly with your child.

Every child is assigned a guidance counselor. Calling the counselor can also be helpful in some situations.

If after calling the teacher and/or guidance counselor, there are still unresolved concerns, the assistant principal or principal should be called.

When calling the school, please realize teachers and administrators are working with students during school hours. Unless the phone message states that there is an urgent, emergency situation, most phone calls will be returned after the children are dismissed.

All parent concerns are of utmost concern to the school, and will always be handled as such.

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Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources

Ronald Musson
Assistant Superintendent for Business (Interim)

Linda Pickford
Principal, South Ocean Middle School

Rui Mendes
Assistant Principal, South Ocean Middle School



**South Ocean Middle School
Principal's Message
September 2009**

DATES TO REMEMBER

Wednesday, September 9	First Day of School
Tuesday, September 15	PTA Meeting 7:00 pm
Wednesday, September 30	School Pictures
Thursday, October 1	School Pictures
Monday, September 28	Yom Kippur No School
Wednesday, October 7	SBMT Meeting 6:30 pm PTA Meeting 7:00 pm
Thursday, October 8	Back to School Night 6:30 p.m.
Monday, October 12	Columbus Day School Closed
Thursday, October 29	Teachers and Parents vs. Students Volleyball
Thursday, November 5	School Picture Retakes/ Make-ups



Dear Parents/Guardians and Students:

Welcome to the 2009-2010 school year. I hope you have all had a restful and enjoyable summer vacation. For the past six years I was the principal at Saxton Middle School and have now been appointed as South Ocean Middle School's principal. I eagerly look forward to meeting students and parents in the upcoming weeks. The first day of school is Wednesday, September 9th. Parents are invited to attend our first PTA meeting on Tuesday, September 15th at 7:00 pm in the library and "Meet The Teacher Night" on Thursday, October 8th at 6:30 pm.

Mr. Rui Mendes, is our assistant principal. He worked with me in the same capacity at Saxton Middle School. We have been working together to prepare for a smooth opening of the new school year.

As a South Ocean parent, I invite you to be a partner in your child's educational experience. Newsletters will be sent home periodically to keep you informed about events and activities throughout the school year. Middle school youngsters are undergoing dramatic changes socially, emotionally, physically and cognitively. Your interest and support during these years is of utmost importance. Strong family support can help provide a safe environment during this tremendous growth period. Your participation in your child's education will have significant impact on their success. You are encouraged to call your child's teachers, guidance counselor or administrators for any questions or concerns.

As a South Ocean student, you are invited to take advantage of every moment and every opportunity to become involved in your school. You will be taught by talented and dedicated teachers who are always interested in helping you succeed. South Ocean is filled with adults who have chosen to devote their lives to making a difference in young people's lives. I hope you arrive to school in September with a positive attitude, eager to have a memorable school year.

In this newsletter you will find lots of helpful and important information. Enclosed in this mailing you will find some forms which need to be filled out by a parent/guardian and returned on the first day of school.

I hope you enjoy the remaining days of summer vacation and I look forward to meeting everyone in September.

Sincerely,
Linda Pickford
Principal

**SOUTH OCEAN MIDDLE SCHOOL
2009-2010 CALENDAR OF EVENTS/BUILDING USE**

(All school event dates subject to change)

Transportation

As per district policy, students may only take their assigned bus. If a parent has made regular babysitting arrangements to be in a home within the South Ocean area, a new bus pass may be issued. If parents share joint custody of their child and both parents live in the South Ocean area, two bus passes may be issued.

Skateboards

Skateboarding is a great activity for children to enjoy. However, skateboards are prohibited on school property. Please be sure your child understands that he/she should not bring a skateboard to school nor use one on school property before or after school hours.

Site Based Team

Parents are needed to participate on the South Ocean Site Based Team. Meetings are held monthly beginning at 6:30 pm in the Library. If interested, please leave your name and phone number with a secretary in the main office at 687-6600.

Extra Help

This year the opportunity for students to access extra help will be built into the school day. This will be phased in over the first few weeks of school.

September 2009

Wednesday, September 2... 6th Grade Orientation, 9:30 am- 12:00 pm
Thursday, September 3..... Superintendent's Conference Day
Monday, September 7..... Labor Day – School Closed
Tuesday, September 8.....Superintendent's Conference Day
Wednesday, September 9.... First Day of School
Tuesday, September 15..... SBMT Meeting 6:30 pm
Tuesday, September 15..... PTA Meeting 7:00 pm
Friday, September 25..... Back to School Dance, 6:00 pm- 8:00 pm
Monday, September 28..... Yom Kippur – School Closed
Wednesday, September 30...School Pictures

October, 2009

Thursday, October 1.....School Pictures
Saturday, October 3.....HS Homecoming
Wednesday, October 7.....SBMT Meeting 6:30 pm
Wednesday, October 7.....PTA Meeting 7:00 pm
Thursday, October 8.....Meet The Teacher Night, 6:30 pm
Monday, October 12.....Columbus Day - School Closed
Thursday, October 29.....SO Teachers, Parents vs.
...Students Volleyball 6:00 pm

November, 2009

Thursday, November 5.....School Picture, Make-Up Day
Tuesday, November 10.....SBMT Meeting 6:30 pm
Tuesday, November 10.....PTA Meeting 7:00 pm
Wednesday, November 11....Veteran's Day – School Closed
Tuesday, November 17.....Staff Appreciation Luncheon
Saturday, November 21.....SOMBA Craft Fair
Thursday, November 26,27...Thanksgiving Recess – School Closed

December, 2009

Friday, December 4.....PTA Chinese Auction 7:00 pm
Wednesday, December 9..... Winter Concert #1, 7:00 pm
Wednesday, December 16.....Winter Concert #2, 7:00 pm
Thursday, December 24 – January 3.....Holiday Recess

January, 2010

Tuesday, January 5.....SBMT Meeting 6:30 pm
Tuesday, January 5.....PTA Meeting 7:00 pm
Wednesday, January 13.....District String Festival,
HS Auditorium, 7:00 pm
Thursday, January 14.....District String Festival,
SNOW DATE, 7:00 PM
: Monday, January 18.....Martin Luther King Day – School Closed

February, 2010

Tuesday, February 2.....SBMT Meeting 6:30 pm
Tuesday, February 2.....PTA Meeting 7:00 pm
Tuesday, February 9.....Parent-Teacher Conferences
Wednesday, February 10.....Show Choir Night 2010,
HS Auditorium, 7:00 pm
Thursday, February 11.....Show Choir Night 2010,
SNOW DATE, 7:00 pm
Thursday, February 11.....Battle of the Classes
Monday, February 15-19.....Mid-Winter Recess, School Closed

March, 2010

Wednesday, March 3.....SBMT Meeting 6:30 pm
Wednesday, March 3.....PTA Meeting 7:00 pm
Monday, March 15.....Board of Education Meeting
@ South Ocean, 7:30 pm
Thursday, March 18.....Superintendent Conference Day
Friday, March 19.....All School Musical
Saturday, March 20.....All School Musical
Monday, March 29 – Monday, April 5...Spring Recess, School Closed

April, 2010

Thursday, April 1 – Monday, April 5...Spring Recess, School Closed
Tuesday, April 13.....SBMT Meeting 6:30 pm
Tuesday, April 13.....PTA Meeting 7:00 pm
Wednesday, April 14 – May 25...NYSELAT Speaking, Grades K-12
Wednesday, April 21.....HS Jazz Night, Auditorium, 7:00 pm
Thursday, April 22.....14th Annual PMCT, Student Citizen Awards,
Saxton Auditorium, 7:00 – 9:00 pm
Monday, April 26 – April 28.....NYS ELA Exam for Grades 3-8
Tuesday, April 27.....Meet the Candidate @ Saxton, 7:30 pm
Tuesday, April 27 – May 5.....NYS ELA Make-Up Exam for
Grades 3-8

May, 2010

Tuesday, May 4.....SBMT Meeting 6:30 pm
Tuesday, May 4.....PTA Meeting 7:00 pm
Wednesday, May 5-7.....NYS Math Exam, Grades 3-8
Thursday, May 6-14.....NYS Math Exam, Make-Ups
Wednesday, May 12.....Spring Concert #1, 7:00 pm
Monday, May 17.....Spring Concert #2, 7:00 pm
Monday, May 17.....Art Show, 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, May 18.....Budget Vote & Election
Monday, May 24 - 26.....Science Performance State Assessment
Grade 4 & 8
Wednesday, May 26.....NJHS Induction, 7:00 pm
Friday, May 28.....Grade 8 Dance, 7:00 pm
Monday, May 31.....Memorial Day, School Closed

PTA

Thank you to the following parents who will serve as our PTA Executive Board for the 2009-10 school year:

Co-President:	Kelly McMahon-Rinaldo
Co-President:	Arlene Crane
Vice President:	Joanne Roubal
Corresponding Secretary:	Elizabeth Conklin
Secretary	Kelly Newman
Treasurer	Susan Fitzgerald

South Ocean's PTA Co-Presidents, Kelly McMahon-Rinaldo and Arlene Crane, and the entire PTA Executive Board are planning a full year of activities. All parents are encouraged to attend the first PTA meeting to be held on **September 15, 2009, at 7:00 pm in the Library.**

Sporting Events

Students are welcome to be a spectator at our many sporting events. These events begin at 4:00 p.m. and usually end between 5:00 and 5:30 p.m. However, students must go home at dismissal and then return at 4:00 p.m. for the sporting event. Students may not loiter in the school or on school grounds before the event begins. Transportation home at the end of the event must be arranged with a parent.

The 5:30 p.m. bus is for athletes only!

Energy Drinks

It is requested that students **not** bring energy drinks in to school. The consumption of these highly caffeinated drinks certainly causes youngsters to have difficulty concentrating, sitting still and generally behaving appropriately.

Thank you for your help and cooperation.



School Dances

South Ocean holds dances for students during the school year.

Dances are usually held from 5:00—7:00 p.m. Students must bring in a signed permission slip. **(Students must be present in school on the day of the dance in order to attend.)**

Students will be dismissed promptly at the end of the dance. Prior arrangements for transportation should be made so that all students are picked up on time.

Please be mindful and considerate that parent and teacher volunteers are not able to leave until each child has been picked up.

The **Back to School Dance** will be held on **Friday, September 25, from 6-8 pm.**

Students who have been assigned either In-School or Out-of-School Suspension in the prior month **may not attend.**

Late Bus Schedule

If your child is eligible for bus transportation, late buses will be available for students who participate in supervised sports or activities. **Late buses depart South Ocean at 4:00 p.m.**

BUS Q

South Ocean & Park
Cedar & Patchogue
Bay & Smith
Grove & Newins
Conklin & Swezey
Pineneck & Swezey
Pineneck & Glenwood
Roe Ave. & Glenwood
Roe Ave. & Myrtle
Lake & Celia
Lake & Bertha
Hewlett & Village
Robinson Garden Apts.
Hospital & Lakeside Village
Dahlia & Orchid
Robinson & Eastbourne Crescent
Neptune & Exeter
Fairfax & Hospital
Neptune & Exeter
Fairfax & Hospital
Grove & Carman

BUS W

River & Weeks
River & Price
Roe Blvd. & Gillette
Lakewood & Jennings
Roe Blvd. & Walnut
Oak & Case
Lakewood & Falcon
Franklin & Center
Franklin & Swan Lake
Phyllis & Beatrice
Rose & Oak
Washington & Schoenfeld
Jennings & Roe Blvd.
Maple & Cleveland
Roe & Ketcham

PTA Membership

Principals, teachers, and parents can make the difference! All parents are encouraged to become actively involved in the Parent-Teacher Association. This fine group works all year to provide educational and social opportunities for all of South Ocean's students. Your \$6.00 membership fee will help support the worthwhile functions your child will enjoy as a South Ocean student. You may also choose to become involved as an active participant, but this is not a requirement.

Please fill out the tear off portion below and mail it along with a check for \$6.00 to:

South Ocean PTA
 South Ocean Middle School
 South Ocean Avenue
 Patchogue, NY 11772

(May also be brought to the Main Office by your child)

=====

_____ Yes, I would like to support the South Ocean PTA.
 My \$6.00 membership fee is enclosed
 (check payable to South Ocean PTA)

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Address _____

Telephone Number _____

Student(s) Name(s)	Grade(s)	Homeroom(s)
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_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

New York State Assessments

All students in Grades 6-8 will be taking some New York State Assessments. It is **crucial** that your child be present these dates:

<u>Test</u>	<u>Grade Level(s)</u>	<u>Date</u>
English Language Arts (ELA) Make up tests	6-8	April 26-28 April 27-May 5
Mathematics Make up tests	6-8	May 5-7 May 6-14
NYSESLAT Speaking	6-8	April 14-May 25
Science Written	8	May 24-26 June 7
Social Studies Booklet I Booklet II Make up tests	8	June 14 June 15 June 15-17
Final Exams	6-8	June 16-25

Website

Important information may be found on the district website at **www.pmschools.org**. Select South Ocean to view information and news specific to our school.



Middle School and High School Marking Periods	
QUARTER 1	
Quarter STARTS	Thursday, 09/9/09
Progress Report Period Ends	Friday, 10/9/09
Progress Report Distributed	Monday, 10/10/09
Quarter ENDS	Friday, 11/13/09
Report Cards Distributed	Friday, 11/20/009
QUARTER 2	
Quarter STARTS	Monday, 11/16/09
Progress Report Period Ends	Wednesday, 12/16/09
Progress Report Distributed	Wednesday, 12/23/09
Quarter ENDS	Friday, 01/29/10
Report Cards Distributed	Friday, 02/10/10
QUARTER 3	
Quarter STARTS	Monday, 01/01/10
Progress Report Period Ends	Friday, 03/19/10
Progress Report Distributed	Friday, 03/26/10
Quarter ENDS	Friday, 04/23/10
Report Cards Distributed	Friday, 04/30/10
QUARTER 4	
Quarter STARTS	Monday, 04/26/10
Progress Report Period Ends	Friday, 05/21/10
Progress Report Distributed	Friday, 05/28/10
Quarter ENDS	Friday, 06/25/10
Report Cards Distributed	Friday, 06/25/10

Lost and Found

We maintain a “Lost and Found” and encourage both parents and students to check for any missing items. Our “Lost and Found” is located on the first floor across from the Cafeteria. Each year hundreds of quality clothing items are donated to local charities when they are not retrieved.

Board of Education Retention and Repetition of Courses Policy

The Board of Education policy for the retention and promotion of students is as follows: Students in sixth, seventh, or eighth grade who **fail three or more subjects will be considered for full grade retention.**

For full information on the school district’s policy, please contact your child’s guidance counselor.



Code of Conduct

Each school upholds the Patchogue-Medford Board of Education Code of Conduct mandated by the New York State SAVE legislation.

The district has a long-standing set of expectations for conduct on school property and at school functions. These expectations are based on the principles of civility, mutual respect, citizenship, character, tolerance, honesty and integrity.

This code applies to all students, school personnel, parents and other visitors when on school property or attending school functions.

In accordance with the new SAVE legislation, South Ocean has **Rules and Consequences**. South Ocean's Rules and Consequences are enclosed with this mailing. Parents are asked to read these rules and regulations, review with their child, sign and return them with their child the first day of school.

Legal Papers

If you have any legal papers regarding custody issues that you feel the school should be aware of, please be sure to submit a copy for our records.

School Pictures

On Wednesday, September 30th, and Thursday, October 1, 2009 pictures will be taken during physical education classes. Price information on picture packages will be forthcoming. Picture make up day is November 5, 2009.

Balloons

For safety reasons, balloons are not permitted in school or on the bus.

Early Release

If your child needs to be released from school early, please follow these important guidelines:

- Any adult withdrawing a student must show photo identification.
- In order for your child to be released to anyone other than a parent/guardian, that person MUST be listed on the emergency card.
- Please send in a note if an early release is planned. Your child will take the note to the Attendance Office during Homeroom/Advisory period and be issued a pass. This will allow your child to wait to be picked up in the main office.
- No child will be released until the adult comes into the building and officially signs the child out.
- Students without advance early release passes will only be called down for early dismissal between periods. Instructional periods will NOT be interrupted. Please help us avoid interrupting instruction.

Security

In order to maintain a safe environment for our students, visitors are required to show photo identification in order to receive a visitor pass to their destination. Visitors without photo identification will not be allowed to enter the building. All visitors must return their pass before leaving the building. Thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation.

Proper Attire

In order to maintain a suitable learning environment, all pupils are required to choose clothing accordingly. Parents are asked to please check and monitor students' attire. No head-gear is permitted to be worn in the school. Any type of clothing or accessories that display an expression of obscenity, violence, drugs, alcohol, tobacco, or prejudice of any kind is unacceptable. Thank you for your cooperation.

Transportation Matters

Students not entitled to transportation will not receive a bus pass with this letter. Students who ride the bus are expected to behave appropriately. Students who misbehave on the bus will face disciplinary action and could lose bus privileges.

Students may not take any bus other than as assigned by the Patchogue-Medford Department of Transportation. Students may not go home on a friend's bus.

Walkers, bicyclists, and automobile riders should arrive and depart at South Ocean's main front entrance. Please do not pick up or drop off students in the rear parking lot as this will interfere with the buses.

Bicycle riders should walk their bikes on school property. All students are encouraged to lock their bikes securely on the bicycle rack.

Student Agendas

Once again, all students are encouraged to purchase an agenda. Daily agendas are an effective educational tool that assists students in developing good organizational skills. Agendas can be purchased from their Advisory teacher for \$5.00. Checks should be made out to South Ocean PTA.

Computer Network and Internet Acceptable Use Policy Forms

All students are required to complete Computer Network and Internet Acceptable Use Policy forms. If your child was a South Ocean student last year, their form is already on file. Students new to South Ocean **must complete the form enclosed in this mailing.**

Backpacks

Students are not permitted to use a backpack during the school day. Research shows that the constant weight on an adolescent's back can cause serious injury. Students may go to their lockers on a reasonable basis throughout the school day. Backpacks may certainly be used to and from school.

Lockers

During the first week of school, students will be assigned a hall locker. The locks are built into the system, therefore, purchase of personal locks is unnecessary.

Under no circumstances should a student share a locker with anyone. Students should be particularly careful not to give their locker combination to anyone. This will ensure the safety of each student's belongings throughout the year.

School Lunch and Breakfast Program

Free and Reduced Price Lunch Forms will be mailed to all parents. Please carefully read and follow all directions. Completed applications must be returned to the Main Office by **Wednesday, September 16, 2010.**