

# Nitschmann Middle School - Team NORTHAMPTON CC

Dear Parents/Guardians,

August 28, 2017

Welcome to eighth grade Team Northampton(formerly Team Villanova) at Nitschmann Middle School! The 2017-2018 school year promises to be full of exciting changes for your student. We wanted to take a moment to introduce the eighth grade team and encourage you to continue the support you provide at home by listing emails that may be important for you as we begin the year. Studies show that parental involvement in a child's education is one of the strongest indicators of student achievement. We appreciate ongoing conversation with parents and guardians, and hope you will make it a priority this year to attend as many school-sponsored events as possible., including Open House and Student Led Conferences. We are delighted to be in a partnership with you to maximize your child's potential.

## Meet the Teachers

Mr. Jason Vajda	Math teacher	<a href="mailto:jvajda@basdschools.org">jvajda@basdschools.org</a>
Mrs. Andrea Hinkel	Language Arts teacher	<a href="mailto:ahinkel@basdschools.org">ahinkel@basdschools.org</a>
Mrs. Michelle Wallach	Literacy teacher	<a href="mailto:mwallach@basdschools.org">mwallach@basdschools.org</a>
Mr. Rick Landino	Science teacher	<a href="mailto:rlandino@basdschools.org">rlandino@basdschools.org</a>
Mrs. Tanya Hood	History teacher	<a href="mailto:thood@basdschools.org">thood@basdschools.org</a>
Miss Jen Fehr	Learning Support teacher	<a href="mailto:jfehr@basdschools.org">jfehr@basdschools.org</a>
Mr. Bruce Kehler	8th grade guidance counselor	<a href="mailto:bkehler@basdschools.org">bkehler@basdschools.org</a>

A tremendous amount of energy goes into this beginning, on the part of all of us parents, students, faculty, and staff. We all want to give students the best possible start to help them make it a successful, productive, and positive year. To this end, we will help both new and returning students understand their role in making Nitschmann a school that is a safe and productive environment for everyone. Please help us by reinforcing these expectations at home. With your help, NMS will continue to be a school community in which every person feels respected, valued, and is encouraged and challenged to achieve at the highest levels.

As a team, we will meet regularly to focus on various goals including improving student achievement, encouraging development of student accountability, using data to differentiate instruction in the classroom, building character, and communicating across interdisciplinary subjects.

- Please check our **school's website and other media resources listed below** for daily/weekly updates of upcoming events like **Open House on September 7th**, supply lists, supplemental Math materials, sports schedules - among other information currently listed. <http://basdwpweb.beth.k12.pa.us/nitschmann/>

YouTube Channel (includes weekly summary video of this message!)

<http://www.youtube.com/c/NitschmannMiddleSchoolBethlehem>

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/NitschmannMS>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/NitschmannMiddleSchool>

Instagram: <http://www.instagram.com/basdnitschmannms/>

- Continue to be diligent and check your child's grades on **Parent Portal** weekly. This weekly access is imperative to maintain the success of your child throughout the entire school year. Your child is also well aware of how to access his/her grades online. There is also an mobile APP for parent portal so it can be viewed anytime and Anywhere!
- **Online access to textbooks:** <https://www.pearsonsuccessnet.com> Your child has been using this online accessibility since 6th grade.
- Feel free to follow your child's individual teachers and team on **Twitter** to keep attuned of classroom updates. During the first week of school, students and parents will be given the opportunity to join **REMIND** in Mrs. Hood's class. Yet, another way to stay on top of classroom assignments, important dates, school activities, etc.

Mrs. Hood - [@MrsHood103](#)      Mrs. Wallach - [@wallachm](#)      [@TeamSpartanNMS](#)  
Mrs. Hinkel - [@mrshinkelNMS](#)      Mr. Landino - [@MrLandino106](#)

- ★ Ask your child for their **Google Classroom password/email** so you can collaborate with your child on assignments and share in the instructional process. Your child's Google Mail is an important tool for communication between his/her teachers.

Again, we look forward to working collaboratively with you this year. We invite you to contact us at anytime to share questions and concerns you may have. We are always happy to talk about how to best guide and promote positive experiences for your child.  
Team Northampton - GO Spartans!