

Torchlight

Welcome back students, staff and parents! We have had a very successful beginning to the school year. Fall Sports are well underway and our clubs and music programs are beginning to meet and plan activities and performances for everyone's enjoyment. Please check your school calendars so you will not miss any of the activities Marathon Central School District has to offer.

There are many changes in store for us this year. One change that greatly impacts Marathon's students and staff occurred when the New York State Education Department changed the dates of the 3rd-8th grade ELA and math tests. The new dates for the ELA test administration will be April 17th and 18th with makeup dates on April 19th and 20th. The math test will be given April 23rd and 24th with makeup dates on April 25th and 26th. Marathon's spring break was originally scheduled during this time along with many schools in our surrounding area. Spring Break for Marathon CSD students has been moved to April 9, 2012-April 13, 2012. Students will also have Good Friday off, extending the beginning of spring break by a day. OCM BOCES and BT BOCES will also have the same spring break, ensuring that our BOCES students do not miss classes or opportunities that are offered from those programs. It is important that students in grades 3-8 take these state exams, so please look closely at your calendar when planning upcoming family events. If parents have already booked flights and/or accommodations and will be unable to change them, please contact the high school office at 849-3251 or the elementary office at 849-3281 as soon as possible.

Our capital project is 85% complete at this time. We are finishing up details like the roof flashing, electrical work and track resurfacing. There is only one classroom which is still unavailable due to construction with completion just around the corner. We invite you to take a look at the new foyer at Appleby Elementary. The space is bright, open and looks fantastic. The furniture creates a warm and inviting atmosphere. We also have made many improvements in classrooms, added a technology room in each building (with a green house at the elementary) and have created a covered canopy for students by the Junior High entrance which provides a large, safe space for our students to wait for transportation out of the rain. These are just a few of the additions and upgrades that we hope you will enjoy as you utilize the buildings. As the project nears its completion, I welcome your feedback and am interested in what you think we need in the future. Please send your comments and suggestions to rstone@marathonschools.org or to Rebecca Stone, Superintendent's Office, 1 E. Main St, Marathon NY 13806. I will be compiling information and bringing it to our facilities committee for future planning.

I have enjoyed learning about the Marathon community and have had the opportunity to meet many of the residents. I look forward to seeing you in town or at school events and always welcome suggestions or comments.