



# Mendham Township Middle School

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Principal

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## Re: Fifth Grade: Zero Period Extra-Help Sessions

Dear MTMS Fifth Grade Parents,

As we are heading into our second semester together, it is my sincere hope that our induction programs and activities coupled with our strong desire to provide a comprehensive educational experience of the highest quality are accommodating the needs of our community's children. There is no doubt that our desire to bring each and every child to his/her greatest potential does create a challenging and demanding school environment. We are well aware that students respond to these challenges in a variety of ways and develop 'stress tolerance' at varying rates. Please note that we are continually discussing the importance of appropriately balancing the need to transition our students into our middle school setting with the need to begin preparing them for the academic, social, and emotional challenges that lie ahead in middle school and beyond. In the end, we remain committed to providing a rigorous, yet supportive academic environment where all students attain superior academic skills.

Although we have infused several quality programs into our 6<sup>th</sup> period enrichment program (such as advisory, problem solving, academic support, and computer literacy) we are recognizing a need to provide additional small group, focused academic support from time to time without precluding students from participating in regularly scheduled enrichment activities. **As a result, starting January 17, 2007, Mrs. Herrmann will be available upon teacher recommendation to meet with fifth grade students during our zero period from 7:22 am until 8:03 am on Thursdays. Students can certainly request to attend an early morning extra help session if he/she feels the need for additional support. It is critical to note that in order for a student to attend the early morning extra-help session, he/she must present a signed permission slip on each and every day of attendance. Permission slips will be furnished by a fifth grade staff member in advance of the session.** Parents and guardians are responsible for transporting students to school for these early morning extra-help sessions. We will monitor the effectiveness and efficiency of this early morning extra-help period so that we may appropriately expand the program if applicable.

If you have any questions and or concerns, please feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Very truly yours,

Patrick J. Ciccone

cc: Dr. Christine Johnson, Superintendent of Schools