



**(MS)<sup>2</sup>TC 7<sup>th</sup> Grade**

**Butcher School Site Investigation Project**

**2018 - 2019**

September 26, 2018

Dear Students and Parents,

We are excited to share information about the Butcher School Site Investigation project with you. It is an interdisciplinary project which the 7<sup>th</sup> grade class will undertake during the 2018 - 2019 school year.

Throughout the first quarter of the school year, students will be working in groups of four in their Science, ELA, and Math classes to complete a series of activities that will enable each group to develop and later implement an action plan to improve the grounds surrounding our school building, specifically the field habitat in the back of the school. This year's students will have the option to start a new project that will enhance the evolving habitat in the field or they can improve upon and continue an existing project implemented by last year's 7<sup>th</sup> grade class.

Some of the activities that student groups will complete for the project include:

- Observe and record the plant and wildlife species around the school, as well as natural habitats.
- Assess gardening and composting possibilities on the school grounds.
- Investigate the presence, health, value, and benefits of trees.
- Learn how the school grounds are maintained and if sustainable practices are being used.
- Assess the percentage of pervious and impervious areas on the school site.
- Determine whether changes to the school site would encourage the use of outdoor spaces for classes, lunch time, studying, and physical activity.

Instructions, guidance, rubrics, and time will all be provided by the 7<sup>th</sup> grade team of teachers when and as needed for each of the above activities.

For more information on how and why a school site investigation project is a worthwhile endeavor for students to undertake, you may wish to view the "Investigating School Site" video at the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9pfTTfpSgcU>

We are excited to continue this project with our students. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mr. Carron, Mrs. Duddles, and Mrs. Toy