

# 2020 Assumption Middle School 2020 Popsicle Stick Bridge Project

Dear Parents, Guardians & Students,

In past years, Assumption middle school students have participated in a STEM oriented Popsicle-Stick Bridge Project (PSBP) contest. Students always seemed to enjoy this STEM learning activity and the suspense of the final evaluation competition. As we near the end of our COVID-



19 interrupted school year, we thought it would be fun to again give the students an opportunity to participate in a PSBP contest. This year's PSBP contest rules and conditions are identical to past year's, **except for the changes to allow the PSBP and contest to be conducted in accordance with the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) social distancing guidance and directives.**

The 2 most significant changes are:

- 1) Students are not able to work in teams to plan, design, build, test & evaluate their bridges. Working collaboratively with others is an integral component of successful engineering. To facilitate this learning experience, parents, guardians, and others are encouraged to guide and question students about their plans, designs and construction approaches. Get involved, but please remember this is a middle school student competition and explicit directions or participating in the construction of the bridges is discouraged.
- 2) The PSBP final evaluation and contest, will take place outside in the Assumption School yard with strict adherence to the CDC and MA DPH social distancing guidance and directives. The contest & final evaluation will take place during the week of June 8-12 weather permitting. Specific days, times and process will be announced during the first week of June.

Here are some other notable bits of information:

- Student participation in the PSBP final contest is on a voluntary basis.
- The PSBP activity will take place during the first 2 weeks of June.
- Since the PSBP contains math & science learning objectives, no additional math or science assignments will be given during this period.
- Bridge building materials (popsicle-sticks & glue) will be provided at 6/1 pickup.
- Students will be given both a math and science grade for completion and submission of the PSBP student worksheet. Grades will be determined based on completeness and accuracy.

Additional information and student direction will be posted to the Assumption School's website on the STEM academic webpage and during scheduled Zoom sessions. Again, both students and teachers have enjoyed doing this in the past and even with the current social distancing restrictions, we anticipate the PSBP 2020 to be as much fun as in past years.

Mr. Belair, Mrs. McElreath & Mrs. Olson