

Primus Team Welcome Letter

HOLTEN RICHMOND MIDDLE SCHOOL

Summer 2025

Dear **Primus** Team,

Welcome to the sixth grade at the Holten-Richmond Middle School. You have been assigned to the **Primus** Team for the 2025-2026 school year. We are looking forward to meeting you in September. We are anticipating an exciting, eventful, and educational year for us all.



In order to help you transition to grade six, we have provided a [sixth grade supply list](#) that will be required for your academic classes. Please have these items by the first day of school. During the first week, your teachers will help you organize your materials to help you get off to a great start.

Don't forget about summer reading and summer math. The link with important information regarding summer reading can be found [here!](#) It is expected that all students will complete the summer math work that was given to you by your elementary teacher. This packet is to keep our skills sharp! There is also a fun math challenge to show how you see math in the world around you this summer. This will be collected the first week of school.

As a way of introducing ourselves, we would like to provide you with some fun facts about each of your team teachers:

Mr. Hodsdon: This is my 31st year teaching 6th grade science at a middle school in Danvers. Sixth grade is an exciting time for science. We will be studying a mix of life science, physical science, chemistry and earth science. My wife Christine and I have two sons, Andrew, who will be getting a master's degree at Wentworth Institute of Technology studying architecture and Ben, who is a civil engineer in Portsmouth, NH. I enjoy traveling with my family and many different outdoor activities such as hiking, skiing, kayaking, camping and many other things that bring me closer to the natural world.



Ms. Lamoly: I have spent the last seven years working at Holten Richmond and this will be my fifth year teaching 6th grade. I am looking forward to Ancient History this year with all of you! When I am not at school, some of my favorite things to do are spend time with family and friends, go to the beach, paint pottery, build Legos, and watch my favorite movies. I also love to ski. If you decide to join the Ski Club, you'll be able to hit the slopes with me! I am a life-long Danvers resident and once upon a time, I was a sixth grader at Holten Richmond. Trust me - you have so much to be excited about! We have such a fun year ahead of us and I can't wait to meet you all soon!

Mrs. Murphy: This will be my 10th year teaching sixth grade at Holten Richmond Middle School. I live in Haverhill with my husband Dan, my daughter Libby (7), my son Andrew (6) and our dog, Mookie! We like to play outside, go for walks and spend time together. Something that might surprise you about me is that I did not like to read in middle school, now I love it. I enjoy reading historical fiction and mysteries that are written with multiple perspectives. I can't wait to have a great year with you!

Miss Reiss: I have been teaching for 15+ years, though this will be my third year at Holten Richmond Middle School. I am thrilled to have you joining me for math this year! I love that you can find math everywhere, especially built into nature and the world around us. When I'm not at school, I enjoy spending time with friends and seeing family when I am able. I am an aunt to 9 nieces and nephews. I also enjoy hiking, playing Ultimate Frisbee, and crocheting. I look forward to getting to know each of you!

You might be thinking that you have never heard of the **Primus** Team. Over 20 years ago, the team names were changed from colors to historical figures from the Danvers area. Therefore the "Orange Team" changed to the Read Team. The team is named after an inventor from the Salem area who made improvements to the steam engine. He was also a politician. Nathan Read did some really great things for our country. However, we decided that the team names at our school do not reflect the diversity of our student body. Of the nine teams in the building, seven are named after men and all historical figures are white. There is also the Naumkeag Team, which consists of the exploratory teachers in the building and celebrates the indigenous people from this area.

Our new namesake, **Primus** Jacobs, was an enslaved African boy who was living in Danvers around the 1750s. **Primus** was sold in 1754 to Ebenezer Jacobs and was identified as around 4 years old at the time. His previous owner, Daniel Epes, was from Danvers and we



don't know when he purchased **Primus** or if **Primus** was born in the Epes household with his mother. In 1777, **Primus** Jacobs enlisted to fight in the American Revolutionary War. Slave owners often enlisted their enslaved men to fight in their place and promised them freedom if they survived. **Primus** Jacobs was in the 15th Battalion of Massachusetts under Captain Samuel Page (Jeremiah Page's son). Along with several other men of African descent, **Primus** fought at Saratoga, Valley Forge, and West Point under General Washington. He

served until 1782 and was either given his freedom in 1783 or became free alongside over 5,000 other enslaved people living in Massachusetts. (This information was put together for us by members of the Danvers Historical Society and other local historians.) We hope you are proud to be on the **Primus** Team!

We hope that you have had a wonderful summer thus far. Enjoy the remaining few weeks! We again are looking forward to meeting you as we form the **Primus** Team this September.

Sincerely,
The **Primus** Team Teachers

Mr. Hodsdon (Science)
Ms. Lamoly (History)
Mrs. Murphy (Language Arts)
Miss. Reiss (Math)