



OLD SAYBROOK MIDDLE SCHOOL

60 Sheffield Street, Old Saybrook, Connecticut 06475

Krista Bauchman, Ed.D.

Principal

Old Saybrook Middle School

Matthew J. Walton

Associate Principal

Old Saybrook Middle School

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth grade students are being offered an opportunity to participate in a CT DEEP boating course in April. Because of Old Saybrook's proximity to Long Island Sound and the Connecticut River, it is important to teach our students to be knowledgeable about these resources and how to enjoy them in a safe manner.

Students will be taught a basic boating safety course. Connecticut is one of the first states to mandate boating safety and require that all watercraft operators be certified. This course will have an exam, which if passed will culminate with each student being eligible to obtain a *Certificate of Personal Watercraft Operation* (CPWO) from the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection. This will allow them to operate** any recreational vessel, including personal watercraft (jet skis), in CT, MA, NY, and RI. This is a demanding course requiring students to read and study at home in order to obtain the knowledge needed to pass the exam.

We are trying to gain an idea of the level of interest and when to best hold the class. We have two options to try to accommodate as many interested students as possible. Option 1 is to hold the class prior to the start of school, from 7:00 to 8:00 AM which would require students to be dropped off at school early in the morning. The second option is to run the class after school with a parent pickup time of 4:15 PM, however, this timeslot will prevent our Spring athletes from participating in the course. Please indicate on the attached permission slip your preference of a time that you'd like to have the class run. We will try to accommodate the most preferred scenario.

*Our Certified Department of Energy & Environmental Protection instructors will lead the course: Mr. Walton, Mr. Labriola, and Mr. Plotkin. The class will take place **April 28 - 29 and May 2 - 6** in our school library. Please complete the attached form and **return it to the office by Monday, April 25, 2022**, if you would like your child to participate. Your child will not be obligated to participate if the chosen time slot conflicts with his or her other commitments.*

Sincerely,

Matthew Walton

Bob Labriola

David Plotkin



Certified Boating Instructors

** Anyone **under 12** years of age with a CPWO, who will be operating a boat powered by a motor greater than 10hp, must have on board a person at least 18 years of age who also has been issued the appropriate certificate. The minimum age to operate a personal watercraft alone is 16. An operator **under 16** years of age must be accompanied by a person of at least 18 years of age who has been issued a CPWO.

Telephone (860) 395-3168

FAX (860) 395-3350

www.oldsaybrookschoools.org

"The mission of the Old Saybrook Public Schools is to educate and prepare students to achieve their highest aspirations, care for others and the environment, and contribute to a global society by working in partnership with families and the community, and by engaging each learner in a rigorous, personalized, and meaningful educational program."



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My son/daughter, _____, Grade _____,

(Print first and last name)

will participate in the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection boating certification class at Old Saybrook Middle School. I understand that students must attend all classes. There will be an exam and an optional review session. In accordance with DEEP guidelines, **students are required to attend all boating classes** and any missed instructional time may result in an ineligibility to obtain a Certificate of Personal Watercraft Operation (CPWO). I understand that passing the DEEP exam with a score of 80% or better is a requirement for obtaining a CPWO.

Return this form to the OSMS front office by April 25th to secure your spot.

INDICATE YOUR TIME PREFERENCE BY CHECKING ONE OF THE FOLLOWING OPTIONS:

_____ **Before school, 7:00 – 8:00 AM**

_____ **After School, 2:35 – 4:15 PM**

Parent Signature

Student Signature

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