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For Immediate Release

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8th Graders to move to Franklin Academy for 2010-2011 School Year

The Malone Central School District announces a plan to move the 2010-2011 8th grade class from Malone Middle School to the Franklin Academy High School to allow for the construction and renovation of the Middle School building. The Board of Education's priority was to make the disruption to students as minimal as possible during construction. In consultation with the district's architect and construction manager, CS Arch, as well as administrators, the Board developed a plan to move approximately 150 eighth graders out of the building for one year to allow adequate space to complete the work in a safe, efficient and timely manner. Bob Stewart, Principal of Malone Middle School contributed to the plan, and states, "In order to achieve the desired result of long-overdue renovations to the Middle School, this plan is in the best interest of all current Middle School students and future Middle School students. Having fewer students in the building next year will improve the learning environment for the 6th and 7th graders and make it a much safer construction site for students, parents, and staff."

John Dorch, construction manager for CS Arch explains that the move will free up additional space for construction activities to occur in the existing portion of the Middle School. This would allow the contractors more area to work in and should shorten the overall construction duration. This in turn will lessen the impact on the overall district wide capital project budget, and should equate to less time that the contractors occupy the Middle School building.

Without this move, the construction at the Middle School would likely require an additional summer construction season (2012) while the contractors wait for the spaces to become available for the necessary renovations.

Mr. Stewart, Principal of Malone Middle School, and Mr. Jerry Griffin, Principal of Franklin Academy High School, have worked together to bring the plan to fruition. Although it will be difficult adding approximately 150 students and 19 staff members to the high school in 2010-2011, both buildings have worked out a schedule that gives next year's eighth grade a superior educational experience while

maintaining course requirements and electives for 9-12 graders. Jerry Griffin, Principal of Franklin Academy states, "This will be a difficult move, as many of our current teachers and students will be displaced from their classrooms to make space available for 8th graders. However, our staff has embraced the challenge and is more than willing to work as a team to allow the Middle School the time and space it requires to be renovated in an expedient and safe manner."

Mr. Walbridge, on behalf of the Board of Education and central administration commend the Franklin Academy and Middle School staffs and administration for their cooperation in bringing this major move to fruition. "It has huge benefits for the students and staff of the Malone Central School District."

Some of the educational, operational and financial benefits of this one year change are as follows:

- The learning environment will be much improved for the 6th and 7th grade Middle School students with this move.
- The Middle School site will be much safer for students, parents and staff.
- Shorten construction time by one year (Summer 2010 to Fall 2011, instead of Summer 2012)
- Less cost for total project (materials, labor)

- Materials and labor escalate over the course of a year

- Easier for contractors to bid on a job over a two year period than over three years

- One less year of construction and renovations should lead to lower bids from contractors