

# MMS NEWS FLASH

McHenry Middle School 2120 W. Lincoln Rd. McHenry, IL 60051

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## FROM THE DESK OF MR. REITZ, PRINCIPAL,

I would like to start this newsletter off by thanking all of you for helping us get off to a great start to the new school year. It really has been a joy coming to school every day and being greeted by such enthusiastic and positive children. I'm really excited for this year!

This past week, the faculty and I at MMS have been talking a lot about the "magic" of school and the energy that is generated from those first few exciting days of a new school year. We love how everything is filled with so much promise. Lockers are clean, notebooks and folders are organized and pencils are sharpened. We love the fact that students seem so happy to see friends that they haven't seen in awhile and we love the excitement they show when they bump into their favorite teacher from the previous year. We love the school spirit they show during our opening day assembly and the diligence they attend to even the most minute details of those early school assignments. As a staff, during our first faculty meeting, we spent time sharing some of our favorite moments of these first few days and celebrating what we call around here, "the magic of school." Our goal is to keep this enthusiasm and promise in our students for the entire year. We want the last day of school to be as exciting and positive as the first.

Throughout this year we will work hard to make this lofty goal a reality for all of our students. To help us in this endeavor, we ask that you keep us informed if you feel that there is something else we can do to make this year the best year ever for your child. We welcome any and all conversations and suggestions.

This newsletter is designed to keep you informed about the different things going on at our school. Please use it and future issues as a way to stay up to date with what goes on in the building. Also, please use our school website as a tool to help you stay informed.

Thank you again for helping us off to a great start to the 2011-2012 school year! Have a great end of your August and start of your September!

Sincerely,

Mr. Reitz

## Important Dates

Sept. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Institute Day – NO SCHOOL
Sept. 5 <sup>th</sup>	Labor Day – NO SCHOOL
Oct. 10 <sup>th</sup>	Columbus Day – NO SCHOOL
Oct. 27 <sup>th</sup> 9:00	Parent / Teacher Conferences 1:30- 9:00
Oct. 28 <sup>th</sup> 3:30	NO SCHOOL Parent / Teacher Conferences 8:30- 3:30
Nov. 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Early Release – Institute Day Dismissal @ 12:35
Nov. 23 <sup>rd</sup>	NO SCHOOL
Nov. 24 <sup>th</sup> & 25 <sup>th</sup>	Thanksgiving Weekend NO SCHOOL

## Character Counts Word for September is Trustworthiness

### A Note from the Health Office-

#### Please Advise:

We have a change to the statement in our MMS handbook regarding head lice. The statement below will be our policy going forward.

#### HeadLice Procedure

The American Academy of Pediatrics, the Center for Disease Control and the National Association of School Nurses recommend that students with nits (lice eggs) not be excluded from school. Students with active infestations of head lice (pediculosis) will be referred to their parents/guardians for treatment. Education of parents/guardians, students and school staff as to the transmission, identification and treatment of head lice is a far more effective management approach and will significantly reduce unnecessary school absences and reduce disruptive screening.

Parents, remember that if you have not done so please send in a completed physical for all 6th grade students. Sports physicals are not an acceptable form for incoming 6th grade students per the State of Illinois Law regarding physicals and immunizations. Also, please remember to fill out the health history portion and sign the physical. If students do not have a physical in by October 17th they will be excluded from school. In addition, please remember that if your son/daughter has had a fever >100, vomiting, or diarrhea in the past 24 hours do not send them to school. Although we believe in the importance of good attendance, we do not want to put your student at an increased risk for other infections or spread infections to their peers. Please feel free to call the health office with any questions or concerns.

In order to maintain a safe and healthy environment for your children, it is necessary at times to document specific illnesses or symptoms among our student population. A McHenry County Department of Health regulation requires us to report symptoms and/or illnesses to assist in their efforts to track symptomology. Also, there are specific steps that we, as a school district, can begin in an attempt to contain contagious symptoms; i.e., environmental cleaning, etc. Therefore, when phoning in your student's absence, it is helpful to us to be aware of actual symptoms that your child may be experiencing. We report symptoms and numbers; we do NOT report student's names. Please do not be offended in any way if we seek additional information about your student's illness; it is strictly in the best interest of your student.

Please remember that, if your child is ill, please do not send him/her to school. Furthermore, a child must be fever-free for 24 hours *without the aid of fever-reducing* medication, prior to his/her return to school.

In addition, proper hand washing is the best defense against disease and germ; please remind your students to practice good hygiene, including proper handwashing and covering the mouth when sneezing and/or coughing.

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**7 RED**

Welcome back 7<sup>th</sup> Red Team! Mrs. Tankiewicz is looking forward to a great school year with you. Remember "Tank tips" : Participate, listen, come to class with a good attitude, and be prepared. It has been an exciting beginning of the year in Ms. Martin's math classes. All cores have begun their unit of studying on graphs and interpreting them. We will have our first test on Thursday, 8/28. Please remind your student to use their review to study for the test. Also, it is beneficial for them to redo their homework assignments to ensure their understanding of the material. We have many exciting topics to study this year & I am looking forward to helping them discover that math rocks! Mrs. Sheppard's science classes have been studying safety and microscopes. We are going to move into our books with the study of cells. Remember to do corrections for any homework 70% and below. Mrs. Devine's social studies classes have started out the year reviewing the states. Our test was on Thursday the 25<sup>th</sup>. Our next topic will be reviewing relative location, scale, hemispheres, and absolute location. Our textbooks are available on a CD that can be checked out for the year. Complete and return the form sent home this week.

**7 SILVER**

Welcome back! We hope everyone had a great summer! We are excited to start a new school year. Students are reminded to bring back their signed agendas and discipline plans. In addition students are encouraged to participate in the Power of One fundraiser. In language arts classes, we have started our nonfiction unit. We have read examples of biographies and autobiographies. Students have begun writing their own autobiographies. Our library day is Friday. Students need to read at least two novels each quarter as part of their Accelerated Reader grade. In social studies we have been getting to know our textbook using the first two chapters and a scavenger hunt. In science we began our interesting unit on cells. The students are working on creating an amusement park brochure that represents the different parts of a cell and what their jobs are. In math we are reviewing various types of graphs and interpreting the data shown. Please feel free to contact Miss Pellus or Mrs. Walsh if you have any questions or concerns about this year.

**7 WHITE**

Welcome to the 2011-2012 school year! The seventh grade white team is off to a great start, and this is certain to be a fantastic year for both students and teachers. Mrs. Villacres's math class is reviewing last year's math and will soon begin the graphing unit. Mrs. Stanard's math classes are also beginning the year with a study of data analysis, completing a variety of graphing activities. In language arts, Ms. Mutter's students are reading the novel *Someone is Hiding on Alcatraz Island*. They will be completing the reading inventory for Read180 after Labor Day. Meanwhile, Mrs. Schnurr's language arts students are beginning their nonfiction unit this week. The unit will culminate when the students have an opportunity to write their own autobiographical experience essays. In science, Mr. Shevchik's students recently completed their laboratory safety posters. They look forward to beginning their first unit, cells. Finally, Mr. Phillips' social studies students are studying the theories of ancient man in North, Central, and South America.

**8 RED**

The 8th Grade Red Team is excited to start off the 2011-2012 school year. This year we are welcoming Mrs. Foreman to our team --who will be teaching Science. We look forward to a fun and exciting year. Remember to check the homework hotline or the website for daily homework information.

**8 SILVER**

8 silver language arts students are starting out the year reading and writing personal narratives. We have read, "A Glow In The Dark," a personal narrative written by Gary Paulsen and the students will soon become the author of their own narrative essay! 8 Silver social studies students are starting off the year with a review of states and capitals. Your students should have flash cards they have created to help them study along with blank maps. Next week, we will begin studying Reconstruction and the effects the Civil War had on the United States. In science, the 8 Silver students have just finished a review of units and measurements. This week, we are beginning our study of forces and energy with a look at motion, speed, velocity, and acceleration. We will be explaining the motion of everyday objects and using toy cars explore speed and velocity in our next lab. Silver team students have started the year learning about mean, median and mode as we begin a chapter on graphing. We will be using skittles to gather data individually and in groups and then creating graphs to organize and represent our data.

**8 WHITE**

Welcome to the 8th grade - looking forward to a great year! After an opening unit of U.S. States/Capitals we will now shift our attention to The Civil War. We will begin to analyze the issues of slavery and states' rights, and preview the economic and cultural differences that occurred in the United States during the 1800's. Students will be exposed to a number of individual and group activities as well as various video's and primary documents from the time period. Mrs. Liput's math class has been reviewing the basic operations and will be starting a unit on order of operations and pre-algebra skills. Language Arts students are brainstorming book titles for a variety of genres of writing. They have completed their first literature quiz and essay on the story, "Raymond's Run". In science the students have been studying speed and acceleration. We did a fun lab with Hot Wheels cars to determine the differences in their speed on different inclines. We will also be studying friction and gravity.

## UNIFIED ARTS

### Health: Welcome to Health Class!

6th grade: We have been discussing the 3 different parts of Health and engaging in activities to practice all 3 parts. Students have played pictiory to review these activities and will soon be working on a Health Triangle Choice Project to demonstrate their understanding of the 3 parts of health!

7th grade: We have been discussing the fact that the majority of teens DON'T smoke! We discussed the top 3 reasons why teens do choose to get involved with drug use and healthy alternatives to these reasons. Students will participate in an emphysema activity in which they will feel what it is like to have a serious illness due to their choice to be a smoker. Students will be working on a Tobacco Choice Assignment to demonstrate their understanding of the consequences of being a smoker.

8th grade: We have been discussing physical, emotional, social, and spiritual consequences to being sexually active and the many benefits to practicing abstinence. Students will research various websites to discover the most current statistics and facts associated with teen pregnancy and consequences of being sexually active. Students will soon begin a Benefits of Abstinence project in class to demonstrate their understanding of these benefits and consequences to being sexually active.

### Physical Education:

Welcome to **MMS** Physical Education **"Where it's a hit, to be fit!"** We want to see your kids be as fit and healthy as possible. We do a lot of movement in our PE classes. This term we will be doing some flag football activities, golf, frisbee, laCrosse, team building/challenges, crate climbing and during this term (Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>) we will be hosting our 4<sup>th</sup> annual Triathlon (we rollerblade/rollerskate, bike and run). The students have all been talked with regarding their possible participation (their choice) in this challenge. If you have questions regarding this activity or would like to volunteer during the triathlon, please contact Mr. Schweitzer at [bschweitzer@d15.org](mailto:bschweitzer@d15.org)

**We ask as a major safety concern for students/us. Please do not drive on to the blacktop area on the West side of building when we are out during activity. Please wait until we have entered the building and then you can pull up – Thanks!**

A reminder that it has been proven that people that tend to be more active, tend to be healthier and live a more fulfilled life. So get out and walk (Moraine Hills State Park/Dam), play Frisbee golf (West Campus), go for a bike ride (bike trail), water ski (Fox River/Chain), rollerblade/skate (skate park/trail) or just go play a game of Volleyball. We are so lucky to have so many areas to be active!!!!

We have gone over all the expectations for Physical Education and they include: Being prepared for class everyday (PE clothes and shoes); Doing the best you can do as an individual (challenge yourself); Help out others; Respect others, equipment and yourself; Appropriate behavior in locker room and class; HAVE FUN!

Looking forward to the year we are, and if you have any questions, please contact your child's teacher.

Ms. Emigh ([hemigh@d15.org](mailto:hemigh@d15.org))      Mrs. Krysh ([kkrysh@d15.org](mailto:kkrysh@d15.org))      Mr. Heinrich ([ehenrich@d15.org](mailto:ehenrich@d15.org))      Mr. Schweitzer ([bschweitzer@d15.org](mailto:bschweitzer@d15.org))

### Technology:

All students are off to a wonderful start in technology class! 8<sup>th</sup> grade students are focusing on business and careers by starting a business and creating projects based around an original product. 7<sup>th</sup> grade students are focusing on who they are and who they want to be – their family history, heritage and characters and traits they want to exhibit as people. 6<sup>th</sup> grade students are reviewing Microsoft Office while creating websites for an exchange with students in China. Look for more information in the coming month!

## BACK TO SCHOOL IMMUNIZATIONS

@ McHenry Township Hall      November 3<sup>rd</sup> from 3:00-5:30 – BY APPOINTMENT ONLY  
For specific information or to schedule an appointment call 815-334-4536

### 10th Annual 5K Run/Walk a Thon for Literacy!

The McHenry Elementary Education Foundation is excited to announce the 10th Annual 5K Run/Walk a Thon for Literacy! It will take place on September 11th at Riverwood School. We will also be honoring the 9/11 tragedy by "walking to remember." Our shirts this year will also reflect the 9/11 tragedy as well as our 10th anniversary.

We would also like to thank everyone for their donations to their schools to be a sponsor on our t-shirts. Thank you again for your continued Support of the Foundation and we look forward to seeing you on 9/11.



