

MMS NEWS FLASH

McHenry Middle School 2120 W. Lincoln Rd. McHenry, IL 60051
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FROM THE DESK OF MR. REITZ, PRINCIPAL,

For this edition of our newsletter, I'd like to write a little bit about a great district-wide program that we promote in our building called the Character Counts program. In District 15 and in McHenry Middle School, character does indeed count. Not only do we want our students to grow academically, we want them to grow as individuals and citizens. A great way to do this is to stress the importance of positive character traits. That is why we place an emphasis on the character counts program and take the time to teach the pillars of trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship that are highlighted in the program. We don't see these as just words that are hanging from banners in our hallways or are just posted on our marquee outside our building. Instead, we see them as essential traits for people to have. To that end, as a staff we try to model them for our students every day and we also try to recognize and reward them when we see them being displayed. I'm pleased to say that I have, countless times, seen our students display these traits in their classes, in the hallways, on the athletic court and field and amongst their peers. Great job MMS families and students! Keep up the great work. To switch gears a little bit, I wanted to also mention that during the course of the past week your child should have brought home to you an important document—their mid-quarter report. Please use this as a timely gauge to see how your child is performing and as a conversation starter to see how things are going for them so far this year.

Additionally, as you probably already know, our student-led conferences are scheduled for October 27, and October 28th. More specific information regarding these conferences and what they entail will be coming.

Finally, be on the lookout for some periodic email updates about important events taking place at our school. We hope to use this communication tool to keep you informed of what's going on at MMS.

I wish you all a great end to your September and a terrific start to your October. Thanks again for helping us get off to such a great start this year!

Sincerely,

Mr. Reitz

Important Dates

Oct. 10 th	Columbus Day – NO SCHOOL
Oct. 27 th	Parent / Teacher Conferences 1:30-9:00 NO SCHOOL
Oct. 28 th	Parent / Teacher Conferences 8:30-3:30
Nov. 3 rd	Early Release – Institute Day Dismissal @ 12:35
Nov. 23 rd	NO SCHOOL
Nov. 24 th & 25 th	Thanksgiving Weekend NO SCHOOL
Dec. 21 st – Jan. 3 rd	Winter Recess – NO SCHOOL

Character Counts Word for October is Responsibility

A Note from the Health Office- ATTENTION 6th Grade PARENTS

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.

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.

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.

CHORUS NEWS

6th Grade Chorus: All students in 6th grade chorus have been ordered a chorus uniform. Remember to prepare long black pants/skirt and black dress shoes for performances. Our first concert is December 6th. The students are working hard and sounding good! We look forward to sharing our music with you.

7/8 Grade Chorus: Students are preparing for their October 20th concert. We will also be performing at the all school assembly on the following morning, Friday, October 21st. Students will be singing music from the Beatles, Beach Boys, Rascal Flatts and the Rolling Stones!

Madrigals: Students in Madrigals will be performing in the October 20th Band and Chorus Concert. In addition, the MMS Madrigals will be performing a "Holiday Concert" at the McHenry Public Library on Monday, December 12 from 6:30-7:00

IMEA: 30 students from McHenry Middle School were selected to perform in the IMEA Chorus Festival on Saturday November 5th. This is sure to be a fabulous concert. Please check the chorus web page for more information to come soon!

Glee Club: We have recently auditioned and selected students to form our first Glee Club at MMS. This is an opportunity for students to combine singing and dancing. Rehearsals are every Thursday after school. We look forward to starting this new adventure!

Milwaukee Symphony: Students are invited to attend the Milwaukee Symphony Concert on Sunday, December 4th. Tickets are \$14.00. First come, first serve! (check the web site for ticket information.)

Music Department T-Shirts: Chorus students are given the information to purchase music department T-shirts for \$6.00. (This is not a required uniform). Please place orders by Friday, Oct 7th.

Wow! There's alot going on. Please check the chorus web page by going to the McHenry Middle School web page and clicking on UATS. If you have questions, email is the best way to reach me.

Enjoy the music! Mrs. Munn cmunn@d15.org

BAND NEWS

6th/7th/8th band, there are some great sounds coming from the band room already. I am so pleased with how everyone has been working together. A few of you still owe me contracts. There are extra copies on the front board. Make sure to turn in your practice log every Monday. Make sure you are putting in your best effort to be on time to class and prepared every day. **Music T-shirt Money due October 7th**

Jazz Band, Please turn in your contracts and polo money ASAP.

Flute/Clarinet Choir: Rehearsals are on Tuesdays.

MMS Pep Band-First Rehearsal is Wednesday, October 5th after school.

Reminder Dates:

Fall Concert: October 20th @ 7:00 PM

Jazz Festival at High School: October 25th @ 7:00 PM

Solo and Ensemble due WEDNESDAY, October 26th

Milwaukee Symphony ticket orders due FRIDAY, October 31st

Mrs. Paul

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Basketball Try-Outs : Basketball try-outs are scheduled for October 5th and 6th. All students trying out will be expected to have a current physical and permission slip. All practices will be after school, with games beginning at the end of October.

Builder's Club will meet on October 6 and 20. New members are welcome. We will be collecting supplies for "Welcome Home" baskets for people of Joplin, Missouri who have been dealing with the aftermath of the tornados last May. We will also be collecting nonperishable food for the FISH food pantry in October. Watch the sign out front for dates.

WMMS News: WMMS News meets every Monday after school from 2:30-4:00pm. Students must be picked-up on the East side of the building (Chapel Hill). We will be producing the weekly WMMS News Broadcast as well as other videos as needed throughout the school. Students will also have the opportunity to audition to read the morning announcements. See Mrs. Ladendorf in the Tech Room (B109) or email her at kladendorf@d15.org for more information.

6 RED

The first eight of the school year has flown by quickly on 6 Red. Check out what your students have been learning in their core classes. Cores A & B math students have been working hard on long division. When asked if they are feeling better about long division I am happy to report I have no "thumbs down's", a few "thumbs to the side" but a lot of "thumbs up's". We will be starting chapter one on graphs this week and will have ongoing division work to do. Cores C & D math students had fun picking their teams for fantasy football. We are currently muddling through trying to read the box scores on the internet (as they are not in the newspaper). I asked the students to be patient and that by the 3rd week, we'd be pros at it. Along with reading the scores, they are adding large numbers, rounding player salaries and finding averages. They have started chapter one on graphs and so far doing a great job working together and being experts on their chapter section. In language arts, the students are working through a unit on grammar by studying the parts of speech and their importance to forming compound and complete sentences. They are busy "color coding" the parts of speech and creating ABC Grammar Books that emphasize creative sentence development and alliteration. For reading, the students are close to reaching their goal of finishing two novels this quarter. Keep reading 20 minutes a night and filling out your reading logs!! We will be starting a unit on the literary elements and short stories in the next few weeks. In social studies we learned how early technologies could have been as simple as a stone tool or a basket. Ask your student to explain how dogs became domesticated animals. Finally, science class is continuing to apply map skills. We just finished playing cartographers making scale accurate maps of the science room. We are currently learning to use a compass and a GPS unit to prepare for our Orienteering trip on October 5th.

6 SILVER

We have gotten down to business on the 6 Silver team and we are half way through first quarter! The students on our team are proving to be responsible, respectful, and definitely critical thinkers. In language arts we are finishing up reviewing sentences and grammar so we can begin writing essays and stories. Your child should be reading his/her second novel of the quarter and completing the reading requirements for first quarter. During social studies we are "digging" into the past, learning about archaeology, geography and map skills. Math classes are reviewing place value and rounding. We had a great time on our orienteering and geocaching field trip to Veteran's Acres. Thank you to all the volunteers who made our trip a success.

6 WHITE

Mrs. Christian's science classes are learning the seven steps of the scientific method, when the students are finished they will be able to participate in fun laboratory experiments. Remember; keep drawing the phases of the moon all month on your moon calendars. In Mrs. Apostolopoulos' social studies class students have completed their Geography Skills Unit; however, they will be reviewing these skills throughout the school year! The new unit is about Archaeology and Culture, and then the students are on to discover more about the Early Humans! Students in Mrs. Comstock's math class are learning to work with large numbers. Mrs. Kagan's math classes have been working with decimals and the students are continuing to develop their algebra skills. Mrs. Evanger's class language arts class is off to a good start with READ180! In Language Arts with Ms. Marks' the students are continuing to work with Fiction and Non-Fiction during Literature time. The students are writing an autobiographical narrative during writer's workshop. Keep reading at home for your reading log.

7 RED

Congratulations to our September Students of the Month: Tyler Bousquet, Kylee Schweder, and Adriana Sanchez. Ms. Martin's Math classes have begun a new unit of study. Cores A, B, and C are beginning an exploration into Algebra. This is a critical unit for them to gain an understanding of solving equations. We will conquer! Core D is working with integers. We are applying them to the 4 operations and equations. They are doing a great job! Remind your student the importance of correcting their homework that is turned in on time. "Plot, Character, Conflict, Theme, Setting, yes, these are the 5 things that you're going to be needing when you're reading or writing a short story that's mad exciting." Mrs. Tankiewicz's classes have started our unit on the elements of a short story. Our classroom objectives are to be able to identify the elements of a story, define the elements, and demonstrate mastery of short story elements. Mrs. Devine's social studies classes are finishing our first unit: Different Worlds Meet. We discussed how people arrived to the Americas and how and where they eventually settled. We also covered the causes and effects of exploration and where European countries were claiming land and settling. Mrs. Sheppard's science classes are finishing their studies of the structures in cells. We will be moving on to the processes of cells next Monday. Remember to stay on top of your homework and do corrections for 70% and below grades. Have a great fall.

7 SILVER

Congratulations to our August Character Counts students: Jack Kroll, Brad Beyer, Josh Zabor and Kiley Luscher. Keep it up! Thank you to our parent chaperones for our Richardson's Farm field trip! We had a great time and couldn't have gone without you! In science we finished a fun experiment that showed how osmosis occurs. The students loved watching their eggs go through some surprising changes within a few days. We are going to conclude this chapter learning about mitosis, how cells divide. In math we have been reviewing how to work with integers and plot points on a graph. In social studies students are learning about the Revolution War. They will be completing an individual unit project after completing chapter four. We finished our nonfiction unit and are currently learning about story elements in our fiction unit. Keep reading for Accelerated Reader!

7 WHITE

First quarter continues to speed by for the students and teachers of the 7 white team! Mr. Shevchik's science classes have finished their first test. Overall, the students did well, and they are currently finishing up chapter 2 group section projects. The students work very well in a group setting, which really multiplies their learning. Meanwhile, Mrs. Stanard's math cores A, B, and D will be investigating ways to solve equations involving variables, translating words to expressions, and then advancing to solving two-step equations. Core C will continue to work in the algebra section and extend their knowledge of Integers by applying what is known to the Coordinate System. Students are enjoying math class because they are making "smart choices"! Mrs. Villacres's math class is finishing up their work with data! They will begin working on the order of operations and formulas soon. In social studies, Mr. Phillips' classes continue an intriguing study of the voyages of Columbus. This week Mrs. Schnurr's language arts classes are nearing the end of their nonfiction unit. Students have been particularly diligent in creating their autobiographies, and parents should be on the lookout for this assignment in student portfolios at conferences. Additionally, the language arts classes are set to finish their first read aloud this week – *Middle School: The Worst Years of My Life*. Be sure to ask your student about the hilarious charades of main character Rafe Khatchadorian. Finally, Ms. Mutter's language arts students continue their work with the Read 180 program. Read180 is an intensive reading program designed to help students recognize and spell words correctly, read with fluency, and comprehend the text. The goal of this program is for the students to read grade-level material independently, with confidence and fluency in all subjects.

8 RED

In Language Arts, students have just finished a short story unit learning and applying many literary terms and devices. We are currently starting a new unit in grammar. We will be learning the components of a complete sentence, and we will be learning what to add to fix sentence fragments. 8 Red science can be found dropping large objects from great heights or whisking bowling balls down the hallway in an effort to explore topics related to mass, inertia and gravity. Ask your child what rate objects fall to the earth due to gravity....they should know! Algebra students are wrapping up a chapter on functions and will be starting a unit on algebraic concepts and simple equations. Math classes are nearing the end of their unit on integers and operations with integers. Social studies classes are doing a unit on the Western Frontiers.

8 SILVER

8 silver language arts students have been reading "Flowers for Algernon." Not only have we discussed conflict that occurs in the story, but students have also created cereal boxes to summarize the story and the main characters. We are now watching the movie, "Flowers for Algernon," and students will soon be writing an essay comparing and contrasting the movie to the book.

8 silver social studies students have just finished up chapter 17 on Reconstruction. We spent some time studying tables, charts, graphs, and maps and discussed how the South was rebuilt after the Civil War. We are now moving on to Western Expansion and will be completing a Western Land Use map and discussing ranchers and farmers.

Math students are working with integers, order of operations, and absolute value. Algebra students are working with one and two step equations.

In science, 8 silver students are concluding a study of Newton's laws of motion. We recently enjoyed Inertia Day, a lab in which we explored many inertia challenges and tricks. In another lab, students used action and reaction forces to propel balloon rockets across the room. Starting next week, we will begin our study of forces in fluids.

8 WHITE

Mrs. Marrs L.A. class is reading a short novel, Lone Star, about Texas Rangers in the old west. This coordinates nicely to the S.S. unit on western expansion. Mrs. Liput's math class is finishing a unit on integers and will start working on divisibility rules, greatest common factor, and least common multiples. No calculators will be allowed during this unit. Want to know what's happening in math, visit Mrs. Peter's math page: GO TO: *D15.org, *McHenry Middle School, *MMS quick links-Homework Hotline, *8 White Webpage, *Mrs. Peter's Math classes. Check out the weekly schedule, practice math skills using the web links, and download and print daily notes. Social Studies: In the coming weeks we will shift our attention to the "Westward Expansion of the United States. Students will learn about the settlement of the Great Plains and how the area came along with the development of machines for plowing, planting, and harvesting. This combination still makes the Midwestern United States a leader in supplying meat and grain to the world. During class students will be exposed to a number structured discussions, primary documents, and group activities. All of which will center on how the Transcontinental Railroad opened the Western United States for white settlers, forever changing the Native American way of life. I will also be showing portions of the film "Dances with Wolves" in order to help the students understand Native American culture, and the necessity of nomadic traditions. Language arts classes are reviewing grammar concepts and practicing their skills with group and individual exercises. Mrs. Marrs L.A. class is reading a short novel, Lone Star, about Texas Rangers in the old west. This coordinates nicely to the S.S. unit on western expansion. Mrs. Liput's math class is finishing a unit on integers and will start working on divisibility rules, greatest common factor, and least common multiples. No calculators will be allowed during this unit. The science students enjoyed demonstrating Newton's 3rd Law of Motion by showing the "action reaction" of balloon rockets going across the room on fishing line. They were also assigned an alternate assessment of Chapter 2 of their choice including power points, children's book, rap, video interviews or poster explaining Newton's three laws using car crashes as the example.

Basketball Try-Outs

Basketball try-outs are scheduled for October 5th and 6th. All students trying out will be expected to have a current physical and permission slip. All practices will be after school, with games beginning at the end of October.

UNIFIED ARTS

Health: *We're in the home stretch of Term 1 and here's what we've been working on the past couple weeks:*

6th grade: *students presented their Health Triangle Choice Assignment Project and spent time on www.yucky.com to research various body functions and body systems. We will be ending the term with Nutrition 101, consisting of analyzing food labels, comparing foods and nutritional content, and viewing of Super Size Me to discuss fast food choices. Parents at home should be completing a weekly comic book with your child discussing alcohol issues.*

7th grade: *Students practiced role-playing refusal skills in class and/or made booklets illustrating various "ways to say no" in realistic, teen-based situations. We will be starting our ME Collage, focusing on self esteem and making healthy choices.*

8th grade: *We have been discussing the reproductive systems, labeling parts and discussing functions of these parts. We will be ending our time discussing various drugs and how drug use affects all parts of one's health.*

Problem Based Learning

In 8th grade students are finishing up their Business Projects. Students were paired up and had to create a business of their choice. They had to research the industry that their business was in to decide if their business would be successful. The students then created business plans, advertisements, and business cards for their companies.

In 7th grade students are working on Anti-Bullying Programs. They students researched different anti-bullying programs already in existence in order to help them gain ideas of what type of programs we could implement at MMS to reduce the amount of bullying. Students will then be presenting their programs to the class and the administration.

In 6th grade students are planning Ultimate Vacations. Each group was given a different destination and budget. The students then needed to work together to create a fun filled vacation while staying within their budgets.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

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!

Technology: 8th grade students are continuing their business plans with original commercials, business plans, budgets and advertisement examples. They are now preparing to present their plans to their peers and potential "investors." 7th grade students have created a website through the iCollaboratory with a comparison of their past and present personalities, likes, and history. They will begin planning and editing a video of themselves to present to the class during the last week of the term. 6th grade students have reviewed Microsoft PowerPoint and proper internet searching skills. They are currently creating their websites on the Moon for the China, Brazil, Spain, USA exchange.

PTO NEWS: The PTO has been busy since June planning & organizing so we may continue to benefit MMS student's educational and extra-curricular interests. The Power of One fundraiser is off to a great start! Congratulations to Sue Kasper, our September winner of the \$200. The student seller is Luke Kasper. Luke will receive a \$25 gift card as reward for selling the winning ticket. You can still turn tickets in, there are 11 drawings remaining! Tickets turned in before the October PTO meeting will be eligible for all remaining drawings so SELL! SELL! SELL! Congrats to Box Top Pizza Party winner Logan Peterson who will enjoy a pizza lunch with 5 friends. Keep cutting those Box Tops, not only do they bring money into our school but for every 10 turned in, your student is entered into a drawing for the pizza party. Names need not be on each box top, just put them all in a bag with your child's name clearly marked and the PTO will do the rest! Reminder: Market Day orders are due Sept. 23rd. On-line orders are due Sept. 24th. Pick-up is Wednesday, Sept. 28th from 3:30-5 p.m. in the MMS Cafe'. A huge thank you to all the parents & teachers who attended the PTO meeting this past Monday! The MMS PTO is YOUR PTO. Make your voice heard, help make the decisions that shape how our fundraising dollars are spent to benefit your child & and our school. The next meeting will be Monday, October 17th at 6:30pm in the Learning Center....come check it out! We ask only that if there is a specific concern you would like to address, please contact us so that we include you on the agenda and allow enough time for you. Finally, if you didn't get a chance to get your name on the volunteer sheets at Locker Set-Up or Open House, it's not too late! Volunteers are always needed and always welcome! Contact us at mchenrymiddleschoolpto@gmail.com and check out our website www.orgsites.com/il/mchenrymiddleschoolpto, or link through the school website under the Parent tab.

