

Success: It's All About

cooperation
teamwork
respect
responsibility
motivation
self-motivation
perseverance
punctuality
dedication
habits
choices



MASCOUTAH
MIDDLE SCHOOL

**Together We Can Make
a Difference**

August/September 2017 Newsletter

Dear Parents,

School does not start tomorrow or next week, but August 16th will be here quicker than we think. Students have been vacant from the hallways but school has been bustling with activity. Work crews inside the building have spent the summer freshening up the building. By the start of school, every room will have been thoroughly cleaned and left with a fresh coat of wax and the hallway floors will shine from the reflection of the overhead lights.

By the start of the school year a new telephone system will have been installed at MMS. During the transition to the new phone system I ask for your patience. Transitioning from the current phone system to the new phone system has resulted in periods of time when our current phones do not receive incoming calls. If you cannot get through to the school please be understanding. Allow some time to pass and try again. Your patience during the transition is appreciated.

Besides the work taking place within the school, numerous staff members have been involved in trainings and/or completed workshops and college classes throughout the summer. Many sharpened their technology skills, while others focused on content area material. Regardless, their purpose was the same. As Stephen Covey in his book "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People" would say, they have been "sharpening their saw".

As crews continue to prepare the Middle School for the arrival of students, parents can begin readying children for the school year by stressing

the importance of beginning the school year with a positive attitude. Many factors contribute to students' successful experience in school and in life, but no factor is more important than attitude. Those with "I will," "I can," and "I'll try" attitudes experience success in the classroom and develop positive self-images. Likewise, students with "I can't" or "I won't" attitudes struggle academically and with their self-image.

As the excitement and anticipation of the start of school builds, parents can contribute to their child's excitement by helping them get organized for the school year. Be sure they have the needed supplies to begin the school year. Grade level supply lists should serve as an excellent guide to the items that will be needed. Supply lists can be picked up in the Middle School office. You may also go to the Mascoutah Middle School's website, choose the "About our School" tab, and scroll to the bottom to find "2017-2018 MMS School Supply Lists".

Most of all, partner with the school staff to meet the needs of your student. It will take all of us working together for your child to reach his or her potential.

Sincerely,
Bob Stone

WELCOME BACK

OPEN HOUSE

Open House for the Middle School will be held Monday evening, August 14 from 7:00 – 8:30 PM. You will get a preview of what is expected of our students and what learning experiences they will be exposed to during the school year. Please see the attached Open House schedule for presentation time.

During the evening all students will be issued lockers by their homeroom teachers. Having a locker makes it possible for students to bring their school supplies. The supplies can be placed in their locker or left with their homeroom teachers. In either event your child will not be burdened with bringing the items the first day of school.

OPENING DAY

The new school year for students begins Wednesday, August 16th with a shortened day (8:15-11:40). The first day will be used to introduce, or, for returning students, revisit, “life at MMS.” Students will follow their schedules, participate in team activities, and begin the process of developing their daily routine.

During passing times, teachers will be in the halls helping to direct students to their next class. Parents need to remind their son or daughter that close to 50% of the students are new to the building. The feelings of uneasiness, confusion, uncertainty and hesitation are not exclusive to an individual but are being experienced by many students.

STUDENT DROP OFF

Adult supervision will begin at 7:50 AM. No adult supervision will be present prior to that time.

The circle drive in front of the Middle School is not used for morning drop off of students. Parents electing to bring their students to school will turn off of Sixth Street into the northern entrance to the school (nearest the multipurpose room) and follow the arrows on the blacktop around to the back side of the school. Drive into the single yellow lane that has been created and continue

moving forward. School staff will be present and serve as an indicator that you are in the drop off zone. Once your student has been dropped off they will proceed to an area designated for each grade level. You will remain in the single lane, drive across the very eastern edge of the bus lot, continue past the administrative support center, and exit onto Harnett Street.

STUDENT PICK UP AFTER SCHOOL

At the end of the school day students can be picked up behind the school where they were dropped off or in the front circle drive. Turn into the school at the northern entrance (nearest the multipurpose room) whether you choose to pick up your child behind the school or in the front circle drive. If you are picking your child up on the back side of the school follow the arrows around the school. On the backside of the school will be stretch of blacktop with diagonal hash marks. You are asked to Parallel Park in the area with the diagonal hash marks while you wait for your child. Once you have picked up your child merge into the single lane, drive across the bus lot, and exit onto Harnett Street.

If you pick your child up in the front circle drive, enter from the north and parallel park in the area with the diagonal hash marks. Once you have picked up your child merge into the single lane and exit at the south end of the circle drive.

CHROMEBOOK 1:1 INITIATIVE

Each student attending the Middle School will be issued a Chromebook. The Chromebook is a Dell 11 touchscreen. The Chromebook allows students to use Google Applications for Education, and provides access to an extensive array of applications for use in the classroom.

Students that did not receive their Chromebook at registration will receive it the first week of school. Remind your student that he/she needs to bring the completed “*Digital Citizenship Guidelines and Expectations*” form on the first day of school.

TYPICAL DAY

The school day runs from 8:15 AM – 3:20 PM. Whether students are dropped off by parents, arrive by bus, ride their bikes, or walk to school they will join one another on the blacktop behind the school. Students will enter the building at 8:08 AM to put their backpacks and books in their locker and be in their homeroom class no later than 8:15 AM.

Morning homeroom will be used as a time for silent reading. Every student needs to have a pleasure book/novel to read during this time. The reading of the morning announcements and school-wide Pledge of Allegiance at the end of SSR is everyone's signal that it is time to transition to their first period class. Students have a three-minute passing period between classes. Individuals late to class earn a tardy and consequences as outlined in the student handbook. Each day ends with a 23-minute homeroom with dismissal occurring at 3:20 PM.

STUDENT AGENDA

Every student entering the Middle School receives an agenda. It serves as an important communication tool between home and school. Students record their daily assignments, teachers write notes to parents, and parents communicate with teachers through the agenda. Take a moment each evening to look at your son's or daughter's agenda for notes from teachers and to review the assignments written in the agenda.

The agenda helps each student stay organized. It helps them to remember when work is due, remember test and quiz dates and it helps the student avoid unpleasant surprises.

STUDENT HANDBOOK

It is important that as parents, you sit down and review the handbook with your son or daughter the first week of school. The handbook can be viewed online. Go to mms.ms19.org. choose the "About our School" tab, and scroll down to "Handbooks – Policies". The handbook cannot

possibly address every specific circumstance but it does describe the school, its current practices, procedures, rules and regulations. Staff and administration consistently enforce the contents of the handbook to maintain a school environment free from distractions that disrupt classroom instruction, and provide a safe, comfortable learning environment for the students.

APPROPRIATE DRESS

The student handbook provides general guidelines to assist students in selecting clothing appropriate for school. Please monitor and assist your child in making appropriate clothing selections for school.

In general, shorts or skirts shall not create a distraction to the learning environment. Holes in pants must be below the tips of students' fingers when their arms are parallel with their body. Bare midriffs, halter-tops and tank tops are not acceptable, along with clothing depicting illegal substances or offensive language. Sagging pants shall not be worn during the school day. If there is any doubt about dress and appearance, the building administration will make the final decision.

Thank you in advance for assisting your child in choosing appropriate school attire.

BUILDING SECURITY

School safety is a priority. School personnel wear IDs, video cameras record activity along the exterior and interior of the building, and all exterior doors remain locked during the school day.

Attached to the wall adjacent to the front door is an intercom box. Press the button and you will be able to communicate with the secretary. After the brief conversation, the door next to the intercom will then be unlocked. Please enter and step into the office to check in.

PICTURE DAY

Picture Day is Wednesday, August 23rd. Remind your son or daughter to dress up. Specific information related to purchasing picture packages will go home with your student after the start of the school year. These pictures will also be used in the yearbook. Fall Retake Picture Day is scheduled for Tuesday, October 17th.

INTERNET SITE

Take some time and visit the Mascoutah Middle School web site. Go to: mms.msd19.org then select Mascoutah Middle School. Daily announcements are posted each morning. The monthly newsletter with calendar of events can be viewed. In addition, you can see what homework has been assigned by the teachers each day, and quickly access faculty/staff email addresses. View the above information and much, much more on our web site.

MMS ACTIVITIES

There is abundant opportunity for involvement in activities beyond the regular school day. Participation is optional and voluntary, but encouraged. Activities include organized athletic teams and a variety of school-sponsored clubs.

Sixth grade students compete competitively in basketball (boys), volleyball (girls), bowling, and wrestling. Sixth grade students also tryout for softball, baseball, and track, but it is by invitation since they play on the seventh grade team rather than a team consisting of only sixth grade students.

Seventh and eighth grade students also compete competitively in softball, baseball, basketball, cheerleading, volleyball, wrestling, bowling, and track. The school year begins with softball, baseball, and soccer. Basketball and cheerleading tryouts occur towards the end of October. Wrestling practice begins the end of November and meets begin the middle of December. The volleyball season starts in January. Volleyball is a sport reserved for girls. Bowling

will begin in February. In the spring, track and field is available.

In addition to athletic activities, the Middle School offers a multitude of clubs for students. Spanish Club, Chess Club, Beta Club, Math League and Environmental Club are available. Meetings take place regularly through the school year. The student council is also very active and sponsors several activities during the school year. Students need to listen to the morning announcements for specific details regarding each club.

Time after time studies show that students who take an active part in the life of a school tend to do better academically. Encourage your son or daughter to get involved.

SPORTS PHYSICALS

All students trying out for an athletic team must have a completed physical that is less than 13 months old on file with the school nurse. Many times students do not express an interest in trying out for an athletic team until the last minute. Unfortunately, that last minute decision does not leave time to schedule and complete an athletic physical. To avoid the above scenario, parents are encouraged to schedule and complete their child's physical prior to the school year. The physical will be good for the entire school year, and having it on file with the school will relieve the stress brought about by your child's last minute decision to try out for an athletic team.

BOXTOPS/TYSON LABELS

Mascoutah Middle School collects Box Tops for Education and Tyson Project A+ Labels. This is a great, easy way to contribute to the school. Simply cut the "Box Tops for Education" logo off of General Mills products and tear the entire Tyson Project A+ strip from Tyson frozen food products. Have your child bring the labels to school and deposit them in the marked containers in their home rooms.

Ask family, friends, and neighbors to collect too. It may not sound like a lot, but the labels and money we get from them adds up.

This is a wonderful way to support the Middle School and every label helps.

TRANSITION INTO MIDDLE SCHOOL

Your child has reached an age where they will be seeking a great deal more independence than they had in elementary school. Don't for a moment interpret that to mean they don't need you. Middle school adolescents who know their parents are solidly behind them will do best as they navigate this difficult stage.

Support your child during this transition in the following ways:

- Continue to make sure your child comes to school ready to learn. A morning breakfast and ample sleep each night is important.
- Establish a routine each evening for homework completion and each morning to prevent a chaotic beginning to the day.
- Be aware of school and classroom expectations.
- Meet your child's teachers at the beginning of the school year and maintain contact with notes in the student's agenda, phone calls and meetings.
- Be sensitive to your child's new challenges. Be understanding, but make it clear you expect their best efforts in the classroom.

CHARACTER TRAITS

Mascoutah Middle School excels in academics and works equally hard to foster positive character within each student. Each month the school focuses on specific characteristics. Activities completed each week reinforce specific positive traits and students are recognized for displaying those traits with their peers.

It was Bill Copeland who said, "The trouble with not having a goal is that you can spend your whole life running up and down the field and never score". The August Word of the Month is goal-setting. At Mascoutah Middle School, we believe that setting goals is an integral part of student success. We want students to know why they're running down the field. We teach our students to set goals and then hold conversations to help them create the steps to reach their goal. Student goals most commonly fall in the area of academics but can also reach into their social lives, athletics, behavior, and even appearance. They may want to make the honor roll but also get to every class on time, make the basketball team, or receive an honor such as Student of the Month.

Parents can do the same. When talking with your child, ask them what kind of goals they have and what they think they need to do to achieve those goals. Once steps have been created. Take the next step and create a written plan with timelines. It is important for students to understand that they are not running down the field just to run. They are running towards a goal.

Mascoutah Middle School

August 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 7/8 Band Camp 9-12 Soccer T.O. 8-10:00 Softball T.O. 9-11:00 7 th Grade Baseball T.O. 10-12:00 8 th Grade Baseball T.O. 12-2:00	2 7/8 Band Camp 9-12 Soccer T.O. 8-10:00 Softball T.O. 9-11:00 7 th Grade Baseball T.O. 10-12:00 8 th Grade Baseball T.O. 12-2:00	3 7/8 Band Camp 9-12 Soccer T.O. 8-10:00	4 7/8 Band Camp 9-12 Soccer T.O. 8-10:00	5
6	7	8	9	10 OFallon 8 th Softball Tourn. TBA OFallon 8 th Baseball Tourn. TBA	11 OFallon 8 th Softball Tourn. TBA OFallon 8 th Baseball Tourn. TBA	12 OFallon 8 th Softball Tourn. TBA OFallon 8 th Baseball Tourn. TBA
13	14 Softball A @ Hm vs Freeburg 4:15 Baseball A @ Hm vs Freeburg 415 MMS Open House 7-8:30	15 Soccer @ Fulton 4:00	16 First day of school - early dismissal Softball A @ Columbia 4:15 Softball B @ Hm vs Columbia 4:15 Baseball A @ Columbia 4:15 Baseball B @ Hm vs Columbia 4:15	17 Soccer @ Hm vs Carriel 4:00 Softball A @ Hm vs Okawville 4:15 Baseball A @ Hm vs Okawville 4:15	18 Ofallon 7 th Softball Tourn TBA Ofallon 7 th Baseball Tourn TBA	19 Ofallon 7 th Softball Tourn TBA Ofallon 7 th Baseball Tourn TBA Baseball A @ Greenville 10:00/12:00
20	21 Soccer @ Hm vs Shiloh 4:00 Softball A @ Wesclin 4:00 Baseball A @ Wesclin 4:00 Skate Night at Fun Spot 6:30-8:30pm	22 Softball B @ Hm vs Wesclin 4:15 Baseball B @ Hm vs Wesclin 4:15	23 MMS Fall Picture Day	24 Soccer @ Carriel 4:00 Softball A @ Hm vs Carlyle 4:15 Softball B @ Carlyle 4:15 Baseball A @ Hm vs Carlyle 4:15 Baseball B @ Carlyle 4:15	25 Soccer @ Hm vs Millstadt 4:00	26 Baseball @ E'Ville Lincoln MS DH 7 th - 8am, 8 th - 10am
27	28	29	30	31 Soccer @ Hm vs Fulton 4:00 Softball A @ Hm vs Lebanon 4:15 Softball B @ Lebanon 4:15 Baseball A @ Hm vs Lebanon 4:15 Baseball B @ Lebanon 4:15		

Mascoutah Middle School

September 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Softball A @ Hm vs Breese 4:15 Baseball A @ Hm vs Breese 4:15	2
3	4 No School	5 Soccer @ Millstadt 4:15 Softball A @ Hm vs Highland 4:15 Softball B @ Highland 4:00 Baseball A @ Hm vs Highland 4:15 Baseball B @ Highland 4:00	6	7 Softball A @ Carriel 4:00 Softball B @ Hm vs Carriel 4:15 Baseball A @ Ofallon Carriel 4:00 Baseball B @ Hm vs Carriel 4:15	8	9
10	11 Soccer @ Pontiac 4:00	12 Softball A @ Hm vs Triad 4:15 Softball B @ Triad 4:00 Baseball A @ Hm vs Triad 4:15 Baseball B @Triad 4:00	13	14 Softball A @ Collinsville 4:15 Softball B @ Hm vs Collinsville 4:15 Baseball A @ Collinsville 4:15 Baseball B @ Hm vs Collinsville 4:15	15	16 Softball A @ Hm vs Waterloo 10:00 Baseball A @ Hm vs Waterloo 10:00
17	18 Softball B @ Hm vs Waterloo 4:15 Baseball B @ Hm vs Waterloo 4:15	19 Softball A @ Hm vs OFallon Fulton 4:15 Softball B @ Fulton 4:00 Baseball A @ Hm vs Ofallon 4:15 Baseball B @ Fulton 4:00	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30