

Success: It's All About

cooperation
communication
respect
responsibility
motivation
self-motivation
choices

Mascoutah Middle School



**Together We Can Make
a Difference**

May 2018 Newsletter

In May of 2000 I was completing my first year at Mascoutah Middle School. Fast forward to May of 2018 and I am completing my last year at Mascoutah Middle School-Eighteen years later. To have “landed” in Mascoutah was by chance. To have had the opportunity to live, work, and raise our children in Mascoutah has been a pure blessing. I cannot imagine living in a better community, working for a higher quality school district, communicating with more supportive parents, and interacting with more respectful students. It is now time to say goodbye along with a heartfelt “thank you” for the opportunity I had to work with your children and be a part of such an excellent educational system.

At the heart and soul of a great school are its teachers. The faculty and staff at Mascoutah Middle School collectively rise to the level of “greatness” with their dedication, commitment, and passion. They have high expectations for their students as well as for themselves. They reach beyond the academics to develop caring relationships and genuinely care about the well-being of every student. It has been a privilege and pleasure to work with and support the middle school teachers. They are a group of individuals every parent should hope their child has the opportunity to have as their child’s teacher.

Time and again I have been extremely grateful and humbled by the tremendous support parents have given me and the entire MMS staff. Thank you to each and all of you for your support. Without it, what we accomplish at the middle school would be much more difficult. Your trust in us inspires us to maintain high expectations for every student, push each student to their full potential, and develop positive teacher-parent partnerships. As it is stated above, **“Together We Can Make a Difference.”**

I am so fortunate to have been a part of a vibrant community, and excellent school district with terrific teachers, supportive parents, and respectful students. Thank you for making it a terrific 18 years in Mascoutah.

Sincerely
Bob Stone

WORD OF THE MONTH

The word of the month for May is self-esteem. Self-esteem refers to how people think and feel about themselves, and it plays a big role in the developing adolescent. For the middle school student, self-esteem often comes from messages kids get about themselves from other people such as parents, teachers, and friends. Early on, it's the parents who affirm a young person's sense of self-worth, and then it's the teacher. In middle school, peer approval is a powerful source of one's sense of self.

The key to improving self-esteem lies in providing students with opportunities to experience success. Aiming high and reaching goals helps students improve their self-esteem and builds resilience as well. Adults play a major role because they can help kids find areas where they can have success. Parents should encourage their children to find an activity they like where they can experience success and feel accepted. Self-esteem comes from accomplishing meaningful things, overcoming adversity, bouncing back from failure, assuming responsibility, and maintaining integrity.

The best thing we can do to help young adults develop self-esteem is to encourage them to be friends with others who make them feel good about who they are as a person, help them understand what their strengths and positive qualities are, and ensure that what we model for them in our own daily lives is constructive and promotes a positive self-image.

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

Like most people, teachers do their best work when they're appreciated. Teacher Appreciation Week is **May 7st-11th**. Express your appreciation for the effort, energy, and commitment put forth by your child's teachers each day.

AWARDS CEREMONIES

The ceremony for 6th grade will take place at 2:00 PM on Tuesday, May 22nd. The ceremony for 7th grade will begin at 8:15 AM on Wednesday, May 23rd. Both ceremonies will be held in the multipurpose room.

The 8th grade awards ceremony is scheduled for Friday, May 25th at 9:00 AM. It will take place in the gymnasium rather than the multipurpose room.

Parents are invited and encouraged to attend their child's ceremony. Parking is available on the north side of the building, adjacent to the multipurpose room. Parking is also available at the south end of the building. Parents attending the 6th or 7th grade awards ceremony will enter directly into the multipurpose room. Parents attending the 8th grade awards ceremony will enter the building through the gym lobby doors. The ceremonies provide the opportunity for the students, parents, and school to come together and draw closure to what has been an outstanding school year.

Students will receive awards for academics, attendance, band, chorus, and other special accomplishments. Besides the awards, students will be recognized for their participation in clubs, athletics, and other services to the school and community.

EIGHTH GRADE END-OF-YEAR ACTIVITY

Eligible students will depart from the school at approximately 8:15 on Thursday, May 24th. Buses will transport the students to Incredible Pizza. Lunch will be included in the admission price. The buses will return the students to school at approximately 2:00 and they will be dismissed at 3:20.

EIGHTH GRADE END-OF-YEAR ACTIVITY AND FIELD DAY REQUIREMENTS

The date for both events is Thursday, May 24th. In order for the students to take part in either of the two activities, they must meet the following conditions during the time period that started back on Monday, March 12th and extends to the day of the activities. Students have been informed of the conditions in our daily announcements beginning the first week of fourth quarter. The requirements are as follows:

- No bus suspensions
- No in-school suspensions (ISS)
- No out-of-school suspensions (OSS)
- Students must be passing to the next grade.

Any student not allowed to participate in the end-of-the year activity or Field Day is expected to be in school. Class work will be provided for these students.

TRYOUTS FOR SOFTBALL, BASEBALL, and SOCCER

Softball, baseball and soccer tryouts are coming up. The tryouts will be for **current** sixth and seventh grade students.

Informational meetings for current 6th and 7th grade students will be held the first week in May during homeroom.

Softball – May 2

Baseball – May 3

Soccer – May 4

Interested students need to attend the informational meeting specific to their sport of interest. At the meeting we will outline the requirements to be eligible to tryout for their sport. In order to tryout the following must be on file with the school prior to tryouts:

1. Emergency Consent Form
2. Current School Physical (less than 1 year old)
3. Signed their name on clipboard in office

Times and dates for each of the tryouts will be provided to students at the informational meeting.

Speak with your child. If they express an interest, or think they may be interested, encourage them to attend the informational meeting.

ERINS LAW

As a result of Erin's Law, Public Act 96-1524, all Illinois public schools are required to implement prevention-oriented child sexual abuse education for students in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade. Unfortunately, current statistics indicate 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys are sexually abused by the age of 18. Our district school social workers and school psychologists have worked to create developmentally-appropriate presentations to teach our students personal body safety and how to ask for help if they find themselves in an uncomfortable situation. Presentations will take place May 7-10th. The concepts that will be discussed include:

- Personal body safety
- Getting help
- Appropriate peer interactions
- Social media/technology safety

For more information and resources, you may visit <http://www.erinslaw.org/for-parents/> or HotChocolateTalk.org. Our school social worker and

counselor are also available to answer questions or connect you with resources to support your child.

If you have questions or do not want your child to participate in this prevention education session, please contact your building principal.

A TEENAGER'S TEN COMMANDMENTS TO PARENTS

1. Please don't give me everything I want. Saying no shows me you care. I appreciate guidelines.
2. Don't treat me as a little kid. Even though you know what's "right", I need to discover some things for myself.
3. Respect my need for privacy. Often I need to be alone to sort things out and daydream.
4. Never say, "in my day..." That's an immediate turn off. Besides, the pressures and responsibilities of my world are more complicated.
5. Refrain from always rescuing me. I learn most from my mistakes. Hold me accountable for the decisions I make in life; it's the only way I'll learn to be responsible.
6. Be brave enough to share your disappointments, thoughts, and feelings with me. I'm never too old to be told I'm loved.
7. Don't talk in volumes. I've had years of good instruction; now trust me with the wisdom you have shared.
8. I respect you when you ask me for forgiveness for a thoughtless deed on your part. It proves that neither of us is perfect.
9. Set a good example for me.
10. Spend time with me.

ELIMINATE TIME WASTERS

Encourage your child to keep a log of how they spend their time in a week. Ask them to circle "time wasters" that form a pattern. Is it time spent on the phone? TV? Computer games? E-mail? The Internet? Recognizing where the time goes and eliminating or managing the culprits will enable your child to focus on homework. He/she will end up with more time to do what they like afterward.

MAKING EDUCATION A FAMILY AFFAIR

Over forty years of research shows that greater family involvement in children’s learning is a critical link to achieving a high-quality education and a safe, disciplined learning environment for every student. The U. S. Department of Education, in its publication “Strong Families, Strong Schools” highlighted the vital role families play in the education of their children. Among the most important influences parents can monitor include:

- ✚ Parents controlling three crucial factors - student absenteeism, a variety of reading materials in the house, and excessive television/video game watching. These three factors explain nearly 90% of the difference in 8th grade mathematics test scores. Thus, the factors controlled by parents account for almost all the differences in average student achievement.

- ✚ The single most important activity for building the knowledge required for eventual success in reading is reading aloud to children.

**RETURNING STUDENT REGISTRATION
FEE PAYMENT / SCHEDULE PICKUP DATES
FOR 2018/2019 SCHOOL YEAR:**

Tuesday, July 31, 2018 – 10:30 AM to 6:30 PM -students with last names from A-J

Wednesday, August 1, 2018 – 10:30 AM to 6:30 PM -students with last names from K-Z

**All Returning Student Registration
Will take place at Mascoutah High School**

Please provide 2 proofs of residency (military families living on base need only provide a housing letter). **The first proof MUST be a current utility bill** (water, sewer, gas, electric or land phone bill); the second form may be one of the following: occupancy permit with current date, current public aid card with current address in district, driver’s license with current address in district, current voter’s registration card with address in district, lease with last month’s rent receipt, additional utility bill such as phone, trash, etc.

Mascoutah Community Unit School District #19
Mascoutah Middle School
May 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 7 th /8 th Band concert @ MHS Gym 7:00 Track Regionals @ MHS	2	3 6 th grade band concert @ MMS 7:00	4	5
6	7	8 Track Tri-County Conf. @ Highland 6 th /7 th /8 th Chorus Pops concert @ MMS 7:00	9	10 5 th Grade Parent Orientation @ MMS 6:30 In MPR	11	12 Track State Meet @ Carterville
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22 6 th Grade Awards Ceremony 2:00 pm in MPR	23 7 th Grade Awards Ceremony 8:15 in MPR	24 6 th /7 th Field Day 8 th Grade Field Trip	25 8 th grade Awards Ceremony @ 9:00 in Gym Last day of school! Students dismiss at 11:40	26
27	28 Memorial Day Offices Closed	29	30	31		

❖ Sports Physicals @ MMS in Multi-Purpose Room on **July 26 @ 6:00 pm**

Mascoutah Community Unit School District #19
Mascoutah Middle School
June 2018

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1	2
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	24	25	26	27	28	29	30