



MASCOUTAH

MIDDLE SCHOOL

August / September 2018 Newsletter

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We are so ecstatic to welcome you back to school!

Engaging every student...every day!



Dear Parents / Guardians,

It is my pleasure to welcome both returning and new families back to school. It was wonderful to meet so many families at Registration. The city and district of Mascoutah have truly made my family and I feel very welcome. This 2018-2019 school year will be filled with excitement, challenges, changes and opportunities. I hope students and families had plenty of opportunity during their summer for rest and recharging of batteries. Hopefully many had a chance for travel and took time out to read a book or two, or maybe learn something new. However, it is time to start moving back toward a school-minded focus: limit "Fortnite" and the like, go to bed on time, get up in the morning, and have a good breakfast. Start

preparing students some days before school to get back into the school mode. It will make the summer / school transition easier.

Middle School is a time for transition. Children are becoming teenagers, that is, our young people are moving from being “pleasers,” doing what mommy and daddy and teacher say because children want to please, to becoming “deciders.” Our young people begin making decisions not because they were told or it makes an authority happy but because it is “their” decision. This is a challenging time for parents and kids. Finding friends, making friends, ending relationships, and changing relationships is a large part of the growth experience. This is a time for growing the moral self; what kind of person does a young person want to be and upon what foundations will they build their future self? This too is a crucial time for academic growth as students face the challenges needed in laying a firm foundation for high school and the future to come. In Middle School and, moreover, in the home, children begin learning and practicing the tools to hopefully become lifelong learners as well as good “deciders.” That does not mean that they will not stumble as all do, but together we can help them stay on the right path. Middle School is where it happens and we are here to help you and your child through this time of change while providing a challenging curriculum that will allow your child to maximize his/her potential on this journey toward becoming an adult citizen.

Again, I am so ecstatic to be the new principal here at MMS, and with the excellent faculty and staff we have here we will “engage every student, every day in quality learning opportunities”.

Respectfully,

Mr. Paolo Dulcamara

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TOP STORIES

Open House

On August 13th, from 7PM to 8:30PM, 6th grade will be having Open House. Then on August 14th, from 7PM to 8:30PM, 7th and 8th grade will have their Open House. This is an opportunity to come and meet your child’s teachers, ask questions, walk through their schedule, and get a feel for their days to come. Supplies can be brought and placed in lockers issued by Homeroom teachers or supplies can simply be left with the Homeroom teacher. A schedule of the evening is attached.

Opening Day

On August 15th, we will have our first day which will be a half-day. Students may enter the school at 8:08 with classes starting at 8:15 and students will be dismissed at approximately 11:40AM. Our normal full day starts the same with students arriving by bus, foot, bike, and car. They assemble on the blacktop east of the school until doors are opened (on inclement days students enter early and sit by their lockers). The first class is SSR (Sustained Silent Reading) where students need to have a book to read for silent reading. We also listen to announcements and recite the Pledge of Allegiance. This first half-day is designed to orient students to their life as an MMS Brave. They will follow their schedule, with teachers

in the hall to assist students and calm any apprehension. Many students will be new students, not to mention all of the 6th graders. Chromebooks will be issued the following week and will be an integral part of your student's learning through the Google Classroom and an extensive array of applications for the classroom.

Arrival and Dismissal

Students should not be on campus prior to 7:55 AM, as there is no supervision available prior to that time. Likewise, students will leave the building by 3:30 PM. As the office closes at 4 PM, students should also be off campus prior to that time, unless under the direct supervision of a teacher or coach in an after school activity. Please refer to the map attached for specifics.



Construction

As you all can see when you drive down 6th Street, we are moving forward with our expansion program that will give us new classrooms, a new cafeteria, remodel our locker rooms, offices and entry way. We have a new faculty parking lot to the west to replace the lot to the north when construction really begins in the fall. There will be changes and accommodations that we will all need to make and we will all need to be patient with the process. In the end it will be worth any temporary inconveniences that we must endure once construction really gets moving. Updates will be posted as information becomes more available. This is a very exciting time at MMS and I am honored to be a part of it.

Agendas

Each student will receive an agenda which is an important communication tool between school and home while helping students to be more organized. Take time each evening to review your child's agenda for assignments and notes from teachers.



Handbook

Please review the Handbook with your child, it can be viewed on the website under "About our School." 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.

Picture Day

Remind your child to dress up on Wednesday, August 22nd, for our Picture Day. A packet for purchasing will go home to explain the various options available. This photo will be used for the yearbook. Retakes are Tuesday, October 16th.

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.

Additionally, we employ a background check system called *Raptor* as an additional level of security to protect children. We need to know who is coming in the building to be with your children. We ask all parents/guardians to have their ID (Driver's license or State issued ID, not military ID) scanned into the system. Please, if you think you will be visiting your child at school or coming for an event, get your ID and that of other adult family members scanned early. It is difficult on the day of event when many parents and guests are present to scan a multitude at that time. Thank you for assisting us in protecting your children.



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, attire shall not create a distraction to the learning environment. Students are to dress in a manner that is modest, clean, and professional.

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 soccer, 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 soccer, 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.

Box Tops

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.

Erin's Law and Sexual Abuse Preventions

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 Aug 21-24th.

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 workers 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.

Character Trait for August

Each month we introduce a different character trait to students. These are central building blocks toward responsible citizenship and a quality moral life. This month's character trait is:

Goal Setting: Identifying desired outcomes, and planning a line of action to

- From the Old English *gal* "boundary, limit"
- "Setting" in 1837 - the action of hardening (as in cement); 1560s - general movement, direction, tendency

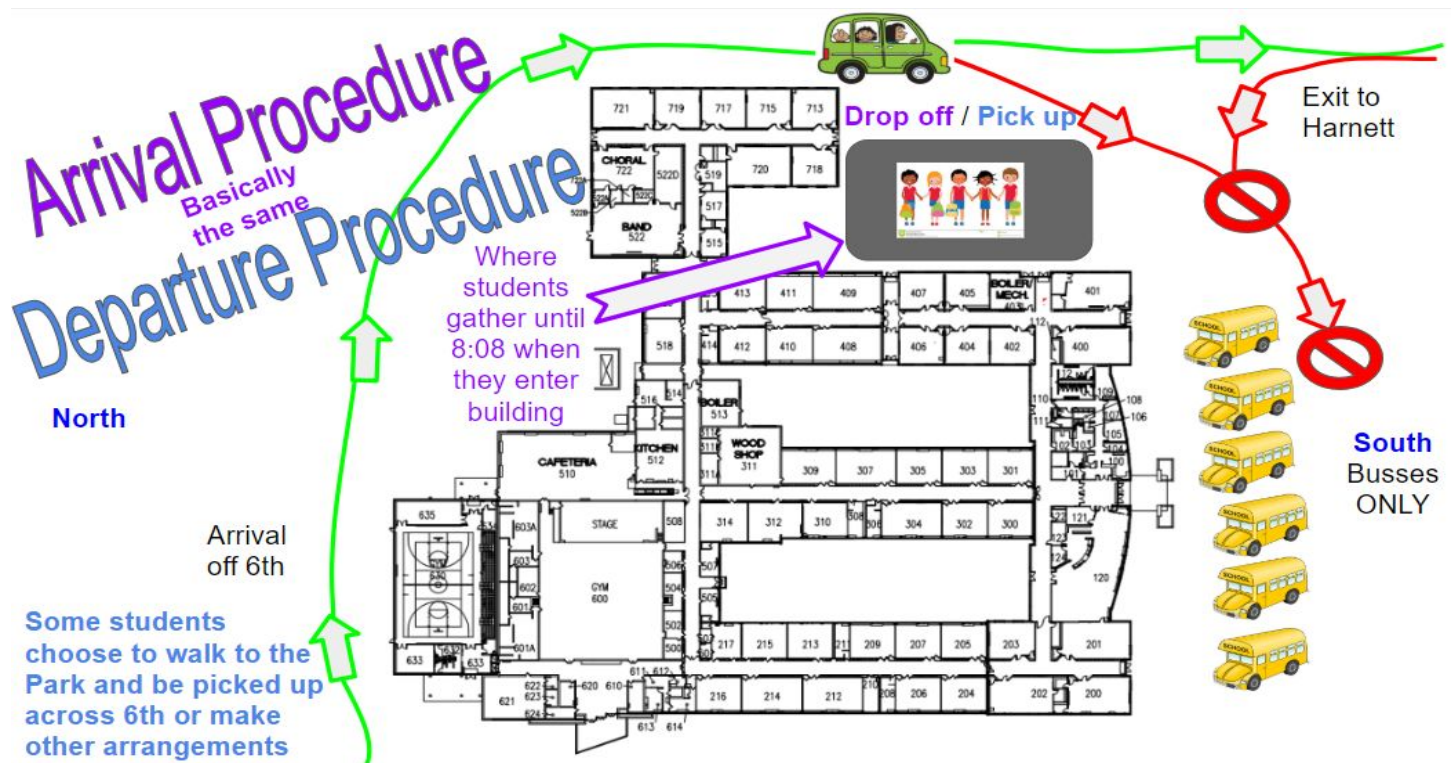
"If you want to be happy, set a goal that commands your thoughts, liberates your energy and inspires your hopes."

~ Andrew Carnegie

[READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE](#)

Visit our website for daily announcements that are posted each morning. The monthly newsletter 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. We also have an activities calendar. Additionally, for any who may be interested, see the website for biographical information about the new principal.

[Click here for CALENDARS so that you do not miss out on upcoming events or important dates!](#)



2018 Open House Schedule

<p>6th Grade-Tamarins</p> <p>7:00-7:25 Supplies Drop off with Homeroom teacher</p> <p>7:30-8:00 Team presentation in multi-purpose room</p> <p>8:00-8:30 Meet and greet/ Tours of the school</p> <p>8:30-9:00 Band members meet with Mr. Gore in the Gym</p>	<p>7th Grade-Eagles & Toucans</p> <p>7:00-7:10 Find homeroom, drop off supplies, homeroom expectations</p> <p>7:13-7:23 Rotate</p> <p>7:26-7:36 Rotate</p> <p>7:39-7:49 Rotate</p> <p>7:52-8:02 Rotate</p> <p>8:05-8:15 Rotate</p> <p>8:15-8:30 set up lockers, visit exploratory and PE, tour building</p> <p>8:30-9:00 Fall Sports Meeting in Gym</p>
<p>6th Grade-Ocelots</p> <p>7:00-7:10 Find homeroom, drop off supplies, check schedules</p> <p>7:10-7:30 Homeroom/Topic 1</p> <p>7:30-7:40 Rotate to Topic 2 w/homeroom group</p> <p>7:40-7:50 Rotate to Topic 3 w/homeroom group</p> <p>7:50-8:00 Rotate to Topic 4 w/homeroom group</p> <p>8:00-8:10 Rotate to Topic 5 w/homeroom group</p> <p>8:10-8:30 Tour the building</p> <p>8:30-9:00 Band members meet with Mr. Gore in the Gym</p>	<p>8th Grade</p> <p>7:00-7:10 Find SSR, drop off supplies, SSR expectations</p> <p>7:13-7:23 Rotate</p> <p>7:26-7:36 Rotate</p> <p>7:39-7:49 Rotate</p> <p>7:52-8:02 Rotate</p> <p>8:05-8:15 Rotate</p> <p>8:15-8:30 set up lockers, visit exploratory and PE, tour building</p> <p>8:30-9:00 Fall Sports Meeting in Gym</p>



Mascoutah Middle School.
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