

Success: It's All About

cooperation
communication
accuracy
knowledge
respect
responsibility
motivation
self-motivation
habits
choices



MASCOOTAH
MIDDLE SCHOOL

**Together We Can Make
a Difference**

January 2018

Dear Parent,

I hope that you are looking forward to the New Year with eagerness and expectation of good things to come. Students have completed two quarters or one-half of the school year.

Christmas break provides the opportunity to review and plan for the remainder of the school year. Let your son or daughter know about the positive achievements that you have seen. If there are areas where improvements are needed, review those together and write down some ideas on ways to improve. Above all, be supportive.

Ask them questions specific to individual classes and assignments. Seek out areas to give positive comments. For instance, "I notice you have completed all of your assignments. Great job on that last test! Good job taking advantage of the opportunity to earn bonus points." When areas of poor performance are identified, phrase questions in a non-accusatory manner. Rather than putting the child immediately in the defensive mode, in a nonjudgmental fashion ask, "I noticed you are missing an assignment in your _____ class, what happened?" "What are you going to do to raise your grade in _____ class?" They own their grades and need to be responsible for them.

More often than not, the one area in which students need the most guidance, and sometimes prodding, is with homework completion. Contrary to popular belief, homework is not something that teachers give

because they can; homework provides practice that is essential for the mastery of material. The school provides incentives and rewards for all students that put forth the effort to complete their homework. Likewise, there are consequences when students make the choice to not complete their homework.

Explain to your child that homework is not exclusive to school and does not end when they complete their education. Share examples of times your job has required reports to be written, articles to be read, manuals to be studied, or conferences/ trainings to be attended beyond your regular work day. As adults our jobs require time beyond the regular work day. As a student their job requires time beyond the regular school day. Not only does homework completion lead to better performance in the classroom, it instills a work ethic they will carry with them as adults when they enter the work force.

If you, as parents, have made it a daily habit to ask your son or daughter about school, if you have discussed school work, homework, quizzes, and tests, then perhaps you won't need to make New Year's resolutions. Just carry through with everything you have done to support your son or daughter with their academics.

Sincerely,
Bob Stone

BOWLING TRYOUTS

Tryouts for Bowling will take place January 8th, 9th, 10th, & 11th from 3:30-5:00. A completed physical is due to the school nurse by Friday, January 5th. Do not assume that your student has a current physical. Always check with the nurse.

VOLLEYBALL TRYOUTS

Tryouts for the 6th grade volleyball team are scheduled for January 10th, 11th, & 12th from 3:30-5:00pm. A completed physical is due to the school nurse by January 9th.

Tryouts for the 7th & 8th grade teams are scheduled for January 17-19 as follows: 7th grade from 3:30 to 5:30pm and 8th grade from 5:30 to 7:30pm. A current physical will be due Tuesday, January 16th.

If your daughter has expressed an interest in volleyball be sure to check the date her last physical was completed. If her most recent physical is more than 1 year old she will need a physical in order to tryout. Physical forms are available in the school office. If you are unsure, contact the school nurse. Please do not assume your daughter has a current physical on file.

REPORT CARDS

Second quarter ended December 21st. Report cards will go home with students Friday, January 5, 2018.

REPORT CARD TO PARENTS

All students participated in the statewide achievement test, referred to as PARCC, last spring (mid-April). Sixth, seventh and eighth grade students completed English Language Arts and math tests. The tests were rigorous and measured both the student's acquisition of knowledge and application of knowledge in the areas tested.

The complete 2017 report card can be viewed at WWW.ILLINOISREPORTCARD.COM. Once on the website type in "Mascoutah Middle School." From that point explore the information behind the five tabs – School snapshot, academic progress, school environment, students, teachers, administrators, and school highlights.

The At-A-Glance Report Card can also be found by going to the MMS website at MMS.MSD19.org and clicking on the "About our School" tab and then choosing "MMS At-A-Glance Illinois Report Card".

You will be proud of the performance of the students. Student performance far exceeded the state average.

DEVELOPING RESPONSIBLE STUDENTS

Steven Covey in his book Seven Habits of a Highly Effective Teen describes traits present in successful teenagers. Drawing a parallel connection, The Parent Institute, an organization that provides tips parents can use to help their children do better in school, put together a brochure identifying the seven habits of highly responsible students.

Highly responsible students begin by setting goals for themselves. Goals keep them focused on the future. Talk to your children. Help them focus on what is important and what is not. If they have a vision of where they are going they are more likely to get there. Responsible students plan their time and meet their obligations. Papers are turned in when they are due, and a calendar is used to keep track of commitments and schedule time each day to complete homework. The old saying, "If you fail to plan, you plan to fail" so often rings true.

Responsible students set aside time for homework or studying every day. On days there is no assigned homework these students may review their vocabulary words, class notes, or read ahead.

Students who earn good grades take notes in class. The notes are neat, organized, and they review the notes before a test.

A doctor always has essential equipment. A carpenter wouldn't show up without tools. Responsible students always bring to class the tools they need. At the most basic level these include books, pencils, paper and their agenda.

Responsible students keep their commitments to others and to themselves. Assignments are done well and on time. If a part of a team, they complete their share of the project.

Finally, they learn to get ready ahead of time. Being late or being early is not something that simply happens. It is a result of choices they make.

Students that possess or develop these traits experience success in school and later in the work place. Help the school help your children – our students – by reinforcing and guiding them in the development of these skills.

TEENS AND ALCOHOL

On average, young people who drink alcohol begin drinking at 13 years of age. The Illinois Drug Education Alliance and Illinois Principals Association independently created a helpful set of guidelines for parents. Research shows that young people are less likely to use alcohol or drugs when parents explain they expect “**NO USE**”, set clear rules, and discuss in advance the consequences of breaking them.

Having a close, supportive relationship with your teen allows parents to recognize when their child might need additional support. Parents should be alert during:

- ✚ Transition years at school: middle school to high school, or attending a new school.
- ✚ Time of increased independence: staying home alone, being allowed to date, riding in cars with friends, or beginning to drive.
- ✚ Times of personal or family turmoil.
- ✚ Times of struggle: trying to fit in with friends, depression, or being bullied.

Recognize warning signs early and respond. Changing friends, a drop in grades, developing a lack of interest in sports or hobbies, mood

swings, and secretiveness should signal an alarm for parents.

Prevention begins long before recognizing symptoms of possible drug or alcohol use. Developing and nurturing a positive parent-teen relationship and open communication with your teen establishes the needed layer of trust and respect. Maintaining the positive relationship can be fostered by:

- ❖ Spending time with your teen.
- ❖ Being present and involved with your teen.
- ❖ Opening your house to your teen's friends.
- ❖ Allowing your teen to make age appropriate decisions.

Talk to your teen about what to do if they need help getting out of an uncomfortable situation. Make it easy to leave a party where drugs and alcohol are present. Discuss in advance how they can signal you to pick them up the moment they feel uncomfortable.

Listen when your teen speaks. Share your values and opinions about underage alcohol use in a relaxed, conversational tone, and be clear about your expectations.

The authors provide three final protective boundaries for your teen:

- Monitor your teen's activities by asking, “Who, What, Where, and When?”.
- Stay up and talk to your teen whenever he or she returns home.
- Call ahead to parents hosting teen parties to make sure they will be home and alcohol will not be allowed.

SCHOOL CLOSINGS

Mascoutah District #19 will take the following actions when school is to be closed for the day or when classes will be dismissed early:

1. In the event school is to be closed for the day, parents will receive a phone message from "School Messenger".
2. School closings and early dismissals will also be broadcast over Radio/Television over the following radio/TV stations:
KMOX (1120)–5:25 am, 6:25 am, 9:05 pm (night before)
KSDK (Channel 5)-5:00 am-7:00 am, 12:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 6:00 pm, 10:00 pm (night before)
FOX 2 (Channel 2)-Beginning at 6:00 am
KMOV (Channel 4)-5:30 am-8:30 am, 5:00 pm, 6:00 pm, 10:00 pm (night before).

VISIT THE DISTRICT ONLINE

AT:

www.msd19.org

LATE START SCHEDULE

On days of inclement weather the school district may close school for the day or opt to start school later in the day. Regardless of which schedule will be followed, parents will receive a phone message from "School Messenger".

On days the school district takes advantage of the "Late Start" option, Mascoutah Middle School will start our day at 9:15 and end our day at our regular time (3:20). Busses will run their regular routes with their pick up times being one hour later than the typical day. The late start schedule is printed below for your general information.

SSR		9:15 - 9:35	
1st Hour		9:38 - 10:16	
2nd Hour		10:19 - 10:57	
3rd Hour		11:00 - 11:38	
	<i>6th Grade</i>	<i>7th Grade</i>	<i>8th Grade</i>
4th Hour	11:41 - 12:19	<u>11:38 - 12:13</u>	11:41 - 12:19
5th Hour	<u>12:19 - 12:54</u>	12:16 - 12:54	12:22 - 1:00
6th Hour	12:57 - 1:35	12:57 - 1:35	<u>1:00 - 1:35</u>
7th Hour		1:38 - 2:16	
8th Hour		2:19 - 2:57	
9th Hour		3:00 - 3:20	

Mascoutah Community Unit School District #19

Mascoutah Middle School

January 2018

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 No School	2 No School	3 Classes Resume	4 Wrestling @ Hm vs Millstadt 4pm BBB @ Hm vs Columbia 6pm GBB @ Breese AS 5:30pm	5 Report Cards go home 8 th GBB @ Hm vs Waterloo 4:45pm	6 Wrestling @ Edwardsville 9am
7		8 Wrestling @ Roxana 5pm BBB @ Okawville 6pm	9 Wrestling @ Hm vs Triad 4pm BBB @ Hm vs Germantown 5:30pm	10	11 BBB @ E'ville 5:300pm	12	13
14		15 Martin Luther King Day No School	16 Wrestling @ Hm vs Wolfbranch 4pm	17 Wrestling @ Liberty 3:30pm 8 th BBB @ Belle Valley 5:30pm	18 8 th BBB @ Central JH 5:30pm	19	20 BBB @ 8 th OFallon Tourn
21		22 Fun Spot Skate Night 6:30-8:30 BBB @ 8 th OFallon Tourn	23 Wrestling @ Bethalto 4pm	24	25 Wrestling @ Triad 5pm 8 th BBB @ Hm vs Waterloo 5:30pm	26	27 Wrestling @ Jacksonville 10am
28		29 6 th VB @ Hm vs Breese AS 4pm	30 Wrestling @ Millstadt 4pm	31			