

Success: It's All About

cooperation
accountability
respect
responsibility
motivation
self-motivation
choices

Mascoutah Middle School



**Together We Can Make
a Difference**

April 2018 Newsletter

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The fourth and final quarter of the school year began Monday, March 12th. There are eight weeks of school left. Put another way, less than 40 days remain in the school year for classroom teachers to present the remaining curriculum. Help your son or daughter keep in mind that there is much work to be done in school. Students are still accountable for classroom assignments, homework assignments, reports, projects, quizzes and tests. There is still a great deal of work and studying to be done before students can begin to relax.

The learning activities that students will be engaged in should not be a chore or drudgery to them. You can help your child reach some level of enjoyment in the work to be done. Keep in mind that the work can be fun even if it is challenging. Don't let your son or daughter use the words "I can't". If you give the student the opportunity to learn and couple that with the expectation that they can do it, then that is what will happen.

Students need to understand that learning can be hard work. If the students realize that working hard in school is in their best interest, they usually rise to the occasion. In essence, school parallels life. Our task as educators and parents is to provide each student with the positive mental outlook to believe in themselves and the tenacity to keep

moving forward even when times appear difficult.

Parents must send students a clear message that academic achievement is the first priority and that it should take precedence over sports, clubs, parties and work. Remember that your comments have a profound effect on your child's attitude and outlook. When you communicate your expectations to your child, be sure that you avoid negative comments and words. Positive communication enhances self-confidence and academic performance.

It is a documented fact that a student with high intelligence but low self-confidence will not achieve as well as an average student with high self-confidence. The key is to help your child remain focused on his or her achievements rather than failures.

Realistic, attainable goals for success should be within reach of all children. Parents must expect the best from their children, yet be sensitive to specific limitations. In setting expectations and standards for grades and achievements, encourage your children to improve on their own personal best.

Sincerely,
Bob Stone

8th GRADE END-OF-YEAR ACTIVITY AND FIELD DAY REQUIREMENTS

We are planning for the eighth grade activity and the sixth and seventh grade Field Day for the end of the school year. 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 starting Monday, March 12 until the actual day of the activities. Students are being informed of the conditions in our daily announcements and that will continue in subsequent announcements. The conditions 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
- All fees must be paid

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

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

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 or 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.

STUDENT PHYSICALS AND IMMUNIZATIONS

A school physical, including proof of immunizations, is required for all students entering Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten, 6th and 9th grades. Students in grade 6 must show proof of receipt of the Tdap vaccine and grades 6 and 12 must show proof of immunization against meningococcal disease.

For the 2018-19 school year, previously enrolled students entering Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten, 6th, 9th and 12th grades must meet the above requirements on the first day of school. This includes any students that enrolled for the 2017-2018 school year prior to June 1, 2018. Failure to provide a school physical with proof of immunizations will result in exclusion from school until the appropriate health records are provided.

Parents are encouraged to contact their child's physician to schedule an appointment as soon as possible to assure that school physicals and immunizations are completed prior to the start of the 2018-19 school year. Any physical or immunization updates completed and received now would be valid to meet these requirements.

DENTAL EXAM REMINDER

All 6th grade students are required to submit a completed dental exam form by May 15, 2018. Contact the school nurse if you have any questions.

NINTH GRADE HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

Students entering ninth grade must have a completed Illinois Certificate of Child Health Examination form. It is the required physical exam form for all ninth grade entrants and is also valid for sports participation each year. No other physical exam form will be accepted for ninth grade entry. If you have questions, please contact Mrs. Henson, RN, school nurse. Copies of the Certificate form were given out at the freshman orientation. However, additional copies are available at both the Middle School and High School.

Parents/guardians are required to fill in the top section on both sides of the Certificate form and to complete and sign the Health History section. If the Health History section is incomplete, the Certificate form will be returned.

Only a health care provider can complete the immunization portion of the Certificate form. Take your child's immunization record to the doctor or clinic for verification. If you cannot locate your child's immunization record, contact the school nurse for a verified copy.

Ninth grade physicals are currently being accepted at the Middle School. Records for our students completing eighth grade will be transferred to the high school at the end of this school year.

REPORT CARDS

Third quarter ended March 9th. Report cards went home with students Friday, March 16th. Many students were pleased with the grades they earned. Others, unfortunately, were disappointed. Parents surely will display similar emotions. If your son or daughter earns grades that are not satisfactory ask the question, "What can I do to help him or her improve them?"

Begin by discussing the report card together. Look for improvements or successes. "Great! You brought up your science grade. How did you do it?" Move on to the low grades. Ask him/her to tell you what they think was the problem. "Hmmm. Here is a D in English. Why is it such a challenge?" If they seem confused by the grade, suggest a meeting to ask the teacher where your child needs some extra help.

Once you find out, ask your child to map out a plan to improve the grade. Go over the plan together. Example: "I'll spend 30 extra minutes daily studying." "I'll return to class once a week at lunchtime."

AFTER SCHOOL

Research shows that the after-school hours are very important for students' success. Those who take part in supervised after-school activities are more likely to do well than those who spend many hours home alone. Here are some suggestions for children to use their after-school time productively.

- ❖ Find out what the school offers. Taking part in school activities will help your child make friends with similar interests.
- ❖ Use community resources. The local community center and churches often offer programs after school.
- ❖ Encourage your child to volunteer. Children at this age are interested in making the world a better place. Help your child look for volunteer activities.
- ❖ If your child must come home to an empty house be sure a routine is established.

LIMITS

The elementary child who adored you suddenly thinks you're just not cool. Perhaps you are busier at work now that your child is older and you are feeling guilty. You may be tempted to relax your discipline. Don't do it. Middle schoolers don't just need limits – they crave them. When everything else is changing, your child needs to know your parenting will be constant. As he grows, he will need to try more and do more. Nevertheless, he still needs you to step in before things get out of hand.

The worst thing parents could do is act as his “buddy” instead of his parent, giving him what he asks for to keep the peace. Your child doesn't need more freedom. He deserves the opportunity to earn more freedom. Perhaps if he consistently meets his curfew he may earn the right to stay out later. If your child does a great job completing

school assignments on time, they may no longer need a set “homework time”. Instead, he can do it at a time he chooses.

Source: “The Parent Institute”

RESPONSIBILITY

Students are responsible for their behavior, their performance, and their decisions. If they ace an exam they want all the credit, and they deserve it. On the flip side, if they fail they also deserve the credit. Avoid allowing your child to blame you as parents, the teacher, the test, or the system. A sure sign of maturity is the willingness to take responsibility for their own actions. They are responsible for their actions and their decisions as well as the consequences of their actions and decisions. Remind your son or daughter that most of what happens to a person in their life is a reflection of the choices they make.

Mascoutah Middle School

April 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 Track @ Hm vs Lebanon, Carriel, Mason-Clark E. STL	4 MMS Book Fair	5 MMS Book Fair Track @ Belle Valley (Pontiac) 4:00	6 MMS BOOK FAIR	7 Track @ Edwardsville Relay Inv. @ EHS
8	9 MMS Book Fair	10 MMS Book Fair Track @ Hm vs Aviston, Albers, Breese, Belleville Central 4:15	11 MMS Book Fair	12 Track @ Lincoln Edwardsville (Liberty, Bethalto) 3:30	13	14 Track @ Olney Invitational
15	16	17 Track @ Triad (Waterloo) 4:00	18	19 Track @ Hm vs Nashville, Red Bud, Wesclin, Fulton 4:15	20 Track @ Marion Invitational 11:00	21
22	23	24 Track @ Hm vs Collinsville, West JH, Lincoln E. STL 4:15	25	26 Track @ Salem Invitational 4:00	27	28
29	30					

Important May 2018 Dates:

Last day of School: May 25

8th Grade Awards Ceremony: May 25