

Happy Friday MMS Families!

Below are upcoming events at MacDonald Middle School. Please mark these on your calendar.

- September 12 –
 - Math club begins – 3:00 p.m. – Room 134
 - Safe Routes to School meeting – 5:00 p.m. – Media Center
 - MMS Open House – 6:00 p.m.
- September 13 –
 - Girls' volleyball vs Holt – 4:30 p.m. - 8 home/7 away
 - Cross country meet @ Williamston – 5:00 p.m.
- September 17 –
 - Girls' volleyball vs Fowlerville – 4:30 p.m. - 8 home/7 away
 - Cross country meet @ East Lansing – 5:00 p.m.
- September 19 –
 - Girls' volleyball vs Okemos – 4:30 p.m. – 7 home/8 away
- September 24 –
 - Girls' volleyball vs Jackson Parkside – 4:30 p.m. – 8 home/7 away
 - Cross country meet @ DeWitt – 5:00 p.m.
- September 26 –
 - Late Start day – school begins at 10:05 a.m. Bus pick up times will be 2 hours after the normal pick up time.
 - Girls' volleyball vs Williamston – 4:30 p.m. – 7 home/8 away

Open House:

MacDonald Middle School welcomes parents and guardians to our Open House on Wednesday, September 12 beginning at 6:00 p.m. The format this year will be different than past years.

Teachers will be available in their classrooms from 6:00 p.m. – 7:15 p.m. for a meet and greet. You will not be following your child's schedule like we have done previously. At 7:15 p.m. parents will meet administrators, counselors, and Mr. McKennon, Student Success Coach, in the auditorium for information pertaining to all families (pick up/drop off, our building goals, disciplinary philosophy, etc.).

We look forward to seeing you on September 12!

Trojan Time:

We want your child to be successful in school, and that means going beyond the basics. Excelling in academic classes is important, but students also need to know how to learn, make good decisions, handle strong emotions, and get along with others.

Next week Wednesday during Trojan Time, we'll begin the *Second Step* Middle School program, which focuses on skills and concepts that are designed to help students both in and out of school. These include:

September 7, 2018

MacDonald Middle School
517-333-7600
517-333-5098 (FAX)
www.elps.us

Amy Martin, Principal
John Atkinson, Associate Principal

Mindsets and Goals: Students learn about ways to grow their brains and get smarter, along with research-based strategies for achieving goals and handling difficult situations.

Values and Friendships: Students learn to identify their personal values and use those values to make good decisions and build strong, positive relationships.

Thoughts Emotions, and Decisions: Students learn the positive role emotions play in their lives, how to handle unhelpful thoughts and strong emotions, and specific strategies for calming down.

Serious Peer Conflicts: Students learn how to identify and avoid serious conflicts, resolve conflicts that can't be avoided, think about other people's perspectives, and help stop bullying and harassment at school.

If you have any questions about the *Second Step* Middle School program, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Martin, amy.martin@elps.us, for more information. Thank you for supporting your child in learning the skills and concepts that lead to success in school and in life.

Pick up/Drop off at MMS:

When dropping off or picking up your child at MMS, please make sure you are staying in a single line to the right and patiently wait for your child. Then move to the left lane and exit the lot. Cars should not weave back and forth across lanes to move forward.

Also, there is no parking on Burcham, especially in the bike lane. Parents must wait in line and continue to move forward for pick up. Please note the ELPD/PACE will be issuing citations for those cars parked along Burcham.

As an additional reminder, please make sure your child is using the crosswalk from the parking lot when being dropped off or picked up from school. They must walk (slowly) and look both ways before crossing the drop off loop.

Safe Routes to School:

There will be a Safe Routes to School meeting on September 12 at 5:00 p.m. in the MMS Media Center. Everyone is welcome to hear ideas and recommendations for making it safer to walk/bike to Marble Elementary and MacDonald Middle School.

Parent Council News:

Our PCC provides planners for every student, software for students to practice math skills, videos for Social Studies, funds to off-set the cost of exciting field trips, as well as, Activity Nights for students to socialize with their friends or even offer Jr Trojan Spirit wear. These things are only made possible with your support. Each year the MMS PCC depends on our families for the one and only fundraiser. Please consider donating. It is easy, just visit <http://mmsparentcouncil.wixsit.com/mmspc> and click on "Donate Now." More information is included with this eblast.

Student Password and Parent Portal:

MMS student's password were changed before school began. The change was necessary in order for all passwords to be in line with district standards. If your child is having trouble logging into PowerSchool, please have them check with Mrs. Harris in the library for their new password.

In addition, parents who have trouble accessing PowerSchool may contact Kelly Hocquard, kelly.hocquard@elps.us, with setting up a Parent Portal account. Please note that due to the high volume of requests, it may take a day or so to get set up.

General Reminders:

If your child forgets homework/lunch, please remind them that it will be placed in the office for them to pick up. If your child is unaware that the item is being brought in, please let the office know so a reminder can be sent to them. Forgotten items will not be delivered to class.

Also, the office will not sign for lunches delivered to a student (Jimmy Johns, pizza, etc.). It is up to the parent/student to have the lunch paid for including a tip. Students will not be called out of class to come sign for a delivered lunch. If you are ordering lunch for your child, please make sure it is delivered during their lunch hour so the student may sign for it. For your reference here are the lunch hour times:

Normal Lunch Schedule

6th grade: 10:55 a.m. – 11:29 a.m.

7th grade: 11:53 a.m. – 12:27 p.m.

8th grade: 12:23 p.m. – 12:57 p.m.

Late Start Lunch Schedule

6th grade: 11:16 a.m. – 11:51 a.m.

7th grade: 11:54 a.m. – 12:29 p.m.

8th grade: 12:24 p.m. – 12:59 p.m.

Math Counts:

MathCounts practice will begin on September 12 in Room 134 at 3:00 p.m. It is open to 6th – 8th grade students. For more information please contact Ashley Ahlin, ashleyrahlin@gmail.com.

Take-Apart-Week:

Mr. Voigt's Design and Build class will be conducting "Take-Apart-Week". The week is designed to help students explore how to use tools to take apart items. In this activity, students will also investigate how machines work through the process of reverse engineering. Included with this newsletter is more information on what you can do to help make "Take-Apart-Week" a success.