



MMS MATTERS

September 29, 2017



TAKE APART WEEK

Mr. Voigt's Design and Build class will be holding a "Take-Apart-Week" during October. Students will explore how to use tools to take apart appliances and investigate how machines work through the process of reverse engineering.

To make the "Take Apart Week" a success, however, they need your help with the collection of all types of take-apart machines and "upcyclable" materials. These items are important since they serve as the "raw material" of study and springboard for re-creation of new projects. Attached with the newsletter is more information regarding this upcoming week as well as a list of acceptable Take-Apart and Upcyclable items. Please note the list specifies acceptable and unacceptable items.

We hope you will consider looking around your home or office for items to contribute. A collection center will be set up just inside the cafeteria where you may deposit your items any time school is open.

Thank you so much for your help. We are excited to see the students' creations.



HOMECOMING SPIRIT WEEK

MacDonald Middle School will be celebrating East Lansing Homecoming with Spirit Week from October 2 – October 6. Students are encouraged to participate and show their School Spirit! The themes for each day will be:

Monday – Pajama Day

Tuesday – College Day

Wednesday – Class Color Day

6th grade: Blue

7th grade: Green

8th grade: Red

Thursday – Crazy Hair Day

Friday – Blue and White Day



PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

Parent teacher conferences will be held on October 17 and October 19, 2017. All conferences are scheduled and there will be no drop-in conferences. To schedule your preferred time for a conference:

1. Go the <https://www.myconferencetime.com/macdonald>
2. Click on the name of your child's teacher
3. Select the desired date/time for your conference by clicking on "Sign Up"
4. Submit the requested information
5. You may then schedule additional conferences

Please see the attached **Conference Connection** for more information on scheduling, as well as links to YouTube videos to help with the scheduling process. The conferences will be available to begin scheduling on Monday, October 2 at 9:00 a.m. Please be aware the conference slots fill up very quickly.

If you questions or trouble scheduling, please contact Kelly Hocquard, kelly.hocquard@elps.us.

Also, please see the schedule below with the conference times for our shared staff.

Diane Bell, German	October 17 – 5:00 – 8:00
Eric Cadena, Choir	October 19 – 1:00 – 4:00 and 5:00 – 8:00
Jacqui Carroll, Art/Computers	October 17 – 5:00 – 8:00
Kim Floyd, French	October 19 – 1:00 – 4:00 and 5:00 – 8:00
Aram Kabodian, Language Arts	October 17 – 5:00 – 8:00 and October 19 – 1:00 – 4:00
Dave Larzelere, Band	October 19 – 2:00 – 3:00
Steven Neal, ELL	October 19 – 1:00 – 4:00 and 5:00 – 8:00
David Rosin, Orchestra	October 17 – 5:00 – 8:00 and October 19 – 1:00 – 4:00
Diana Sanchez, Spanish	October 19 – 1:00 -4:00 and 5:00 – 8:00
Adam Woolsey, Language Arts/Theater	October 17 – 5:30 – 8:00 and October 19 – 5:30 – 8:00



SIGN LANGUAGE CLUB

MMS is excited to announce our new Sign Language Club! Have fun with games and activities all while learning a new language and learning about deaf culture. Best of all, the club is FREE! Led by Emily, a student from the interpreter training program at Lansing Community College, the sign language club will be an opportunity to learn more about the third most used language in the United States! The first meeting will be Thursday, October 12th from 3pm-4pm and meetings will be held weekly on Thursdays from 3pm-4pm in Project Space Room 134. To join the Sign Language Club sign up in the office, you will need to leave your name and homeroom teacher. You must be on the sign-up sheet to be signed up to take the late bus. There is no limit on numbers, the more the merrier! Snacks will not be provided, but if you bring an after school snack you may take the first few minutes to eat. If you have any further questions, e-mail Mrs. Mayville at kristen.mayville@elps.us.



LATE BUS

MacDonald Middle School offers a late bus on Monday/Wednesday/Thursday for students staying after school for club meetings, working with a teacher, Academic Center, etc. The bus company requires students to be placed on the bus route list or they will not be allowed to ride. Teachers and staff are able to place the students on the list. Once a student is on the late bus list they will be allowed to ride for the remainder of the year. The bus will leave MMS at approximately 4:05 p.m. and will go to all the neighborhoods to drop students off.



STUDENT DROP OFF

You may have noticed the new signs in our parking lot as a reminder to watch for children walking across the crosswalk as they enter the building. We are asking parents to please make sure your child is using the crosswalk from the parking lot when being dropped off or picked up from school. They should not be walking in between cars. Also, students must walk slowly (no running) and look both ways before crossing the drop off loop.



PARENT PORTAL

PowerSchool Parent Portal provides you with the ability to check your child's attendance, grades, homework assignments or missing homework. You also may register to receive alert notifications, review daily comments from teachers and much more. PowerSchool allows you to have one login for each of your children. You can access PowerSchool with a Web Browser or by downloading an App on your smart device.

To set up your Parent Portal account you may go to www.elps.us > **PARENTS** > **PowerSchool: Request a Parent Portal**. This form can be used to request a new parent portal account as well as parents requesting to have a password reset. If this is your first time accessing PowerSchool you will need to obtain an Access ID and Access Password from the school.

To view a tutorial on setting up the account please click on the following link <http://eastlansingpd.weebly.com/parent-portals.html>.



EIGHTH GRADERS WILL TAKE PSAT

On Wednesday, October 11, our eighth grade students will be taking a grade level PSAT test. The purpose of the test is to give all students an opportunity to experience taking a college and career readiness test and to identify students who might benefit from advanced coursework.

It is important for students to be prepared on test day. Your student should answer all questions to his or her ability. It will also help if he or she gets plenty of sleep the night before and eats a good breakfast the morning of the test. Students must be to school on-time. The test will begin at 8:05 a.m. and will conclude by 11:45 a.m. A letter from Mrs. Martin with the schedule for the PSAT test will be sent in a separate e-blast.



INFORMATION VERIFICATION FORMS

In an effort to have information in PowerSchool correct we need all students to return the Information Verification form that was included in the student packet. We ask all parents to return the form even if everything is correct. If you have any questions, please contact Kelly Hocquard, kelly.hocquard@elps.us. Thank you for your assistance.



PROOF OF RESDIENCY

The State of Michigan requires two pieces of proof of residency be on file for each student in the public school system. If you have moved, please make sure we have two pieces of proof of residency for your student. As a reminder, if you have moved out of the district you must complete a Continuation form and obtain a release of state aid from your resident district for your child to continue attending school at MacDonald. Please contact Kelly Hocquard, kelly.hocquard@elps.us regarding this form.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

September 30:	ELBOPA Car Wash – MMS Parking Lot
October 2:	Cross Country at Haslett Volleyball vs. Grand Ledge – 7 home, 8 away
October 4:	Student Count Day – please make sure your student is to school on time Volleyball vs. Haslett – 7 home, 8 away
October 9:	Volleyball vs Charlotte – 8 home, 7 away
October 11:	PSAT for 8 th graders – please see separate e-blast for a letter from Mrs. Martin
October 12:	Cross Country at Grand Ledge (Fitzgerald Park)
October 17:	Parent teacher conferences – half day of school – dismissed at 11:20
October 18	Picture retake day
October 19:	Parent teacher conferences – half day of school – dismissed at 11:20
October 20:	No school
October 23:	Boys basketball tryouts
October 24:	Boys basketball tryouts