

# MORAVIA MIDDLE SCHOOL

Quarterly Newsletter

Issue #2 - 23/24

## A NOTE FROM MRS. LOVE Middle School Principal

*The MS has been very busy this fall and I am excited to share the latest news and updates!*

*The tremendous achievements of our students are something we are proud of, and I am delighted to report that 143 MS students were on Honor Roll or High Honor Roll during the first marking period! That's an astounding 71% of our students! As we move forward, let's remain focused on our shared goal of fostering a positive and enriching educational experience for every student. Your encouragement at home plays a key role in their success, and I encourage you to continue fostering a love for learning, emphasizing the importance of attendance, and supporting perseverance through challenges. Consistent attendance is key to your child's success. Attending classes regularly ensures they don't miss out on valuable learning experiences and helps them stay connected with their classmates and teachers. Together, we can ensure that the rest of the academic year is filled with even more accomplishments and moments of pride.*

*Thank you for your continued partnership and dedication to the success of our middle school students.*

*Wishing you and your family a cozy and successful winter season!*

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**THIS ISSUE:**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

12/7 - MS Holiday Concert

12/21 - Go Home Early Drill; students released @ 2:40 p.m.

12/22 - 1/2 - NO SCHOOL; Holiday Recess

1/15 - NO SCHOOL; MLK Jr. Day

1/23 & 1/24 - Mid-Term Exams; MS students released at 11:30 a.m.

1/30 - CIRCUS

2/19 - NO SCHOOL; Presidents Day

2/19 - 2/23 - NO SCHOOL; Mid- Winter Recess

## CONTACT INFORMATION

- Our home/school team is important to us! Please reach out to your child's House Teacher as your first line of communication!
- Middle School Office - 315-497-2670 (ext. 2011)
- Middle School Attendance - 315-497-2670 (ext. 2012)
- Health Office - 315-497-2670 (ext. 2029)



# MIDDLE SCHOOL INFO...

## AFTER SCHOOL LIBRARY PROGRAM

- The after-school Library program is available from 3-5 pm Mon - Thurs for any student wanting homework help or a quiet place to study. It is staffed by MS teachers.
- Students must arrive by 3:15 pm and stay until 5 pm unless other arrangements have been made between a parent and the teacher ahead of time or students are taking the late bus (see below for times).
- Parents/ Guardians will be contacted via phone if a student is scheduled to show up and doesn't.

\*Please note that the Library Program will NOT be open on the 1st TUESDAY of every month due to a school-wide faculty meeting.

## LATE BUSES

Late Buses are available for all students Monday - Friday.

Pick-up will be in the south parking lot at the following times:

- Monday @ 5:15 pm
- Tuesday @ 4:25 pm
- Wednesday @ 5:15 pm
- Thursday @ 4:25 pm
- Friday @ 5:15 pm

Students staying for the after-school Library program can be dismissed at 4:25 on Tu & Th to ride the late bus.



## COMMUNICATION

- PARENTSQUARE is an essential tool that teachers and coaches use to relay information to families - If you are not receiving messages, please get in touch with your child's house leader or the MS office (see info on next page).
- Please be sure to keep emergency contact phone numbers current in the middle school office for school messaging.



## ARRIVAL/ DISMISSAL

**PLEASE BE SURE YOUR CHILD IS ON-TIME FOR SCHOOL EVERY DAY.**

1. Attendance will be taken at 7:50. All students should be seated in forum at that time. Please help us cut down on tardy passes by ensuring your student arrives to school by 7:50! Thank you!
2. Late arrivals have to sign in at the MS office to receive a pass.
3. Dismissal is at 2:55. Walkers will exit through the HS main office door only.

## ATTENDANCE

If your child will be absent, please call the MS office at extension # 2012 and leave a message. You may also email Mrs. Copley at [ccopley@moraviaschool.org](mailto:ccopley@moraviaschool.org).

- In an effort to be environmentally responsible, all future middle school newsletters will only be posted on the Middle School page of the district website
- Please watch for the next newsletter to be posted in March



# PLC & WIN TIME

**What is PLC?** PLC stands for Professional Learning Community. PLCs are collaborative structures that provide educators with the time to engage in meaningful discussions, share insights, and collaboratively plan instructional strategies for ALL students. The work done through the PLC model is researched based to be best-practice and data driven and strives to answer these 4 essential questions:

- What do students need to know?
- How will teachers know if students have learned the content?
- How will teachers respond for students who did not learn the content?
- What can teachers do for students who have met the learning targets already?

**What is WIN?** WIN stands for What I Need. WIN Time is an addition to our schedule this year. It is a PLC intervention period that all Moravia students in grades K-12 have built into their day. The incorporation of a PLC Intervention Time allows teachers to analyze student data, identify areas of improvement or enrichment, and tailor their teaching methods to address the diverse learning needs of their students.

**Why does my student need an Intervention period if they have good grades?** During this daily period, each child receives instruction at a level that challenges and engages them, promoting a deeper understanding of the material. Enrichment activities often focus on fostering critical thinking, problem-solving, and creativity.

**Does WIN time just add more work for my child?** The PLC model enables teachers to identify individual strengths, interests, and areas of potential growth for each student. Activities planned for WIN Time are then designed to provide personalized learning experiences that cater to your child's specific needs. While there will likely be work incorporated into the period, the work is tailored to strengthen or extend your child's understanding of the essential standards being taught in class.

## SCHEDULING INFO

To meet NYS Education requirements, we are excited to offer CTE (Career & Technical Education) to all students in grades 6 - 8. Students learn essential skills like typing, cooking, money management, and organizational skills. We are so proud that many of our students engage in the Arts education that we offer but as a result, sometimes students have to make the tough choice between courses. In a district our size, we run into situations where educators teach several different grade levels 6- 12, and class schedules prohibit students from taking classes at certain times in the day. For example, while many students may want to take an Art class, the Art teacher may not be available to teach a course at the time needed to fit into a MS student's schedule.

## EXTRACURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

We offer many opportunities for students to explore their interests after their regular school day. We hope that the late bus service will allow students to participate in sports and other activities after school. Please reach out to your child's house teacher for more information on any of the clubs listed below.

- Art Club
- Alliance Club
- Blue Devil Broadcast
- FFA Jr.
- Intramurals
- National Junior Honor Society (by acceptance)
- Ski Club
- STEAM Club
- Student Council



### **Why Attendance Matters:**

Regular attendance is the key that unlocks the doors to academic success. Each school day provides an opportunity for your child to:

- engage in meaningful learning experiences
- build essential skills
- forge connections with peers and teachers

*Consistent attendance is not just about meeting a requirement; it is about maximizing the potential for growth and achievement.*

### **Building a Foundation for Success:**

We believe that every day missed is a missed opportunity for learning. Just as a house needs a solid foundation to stand tall, your child's education requires a consistent presence in the classroom. By attending school regularly, your child establishes a strong foundation that empowers them to navigate the challenges of academia and develop the resilience needed for future endeavors.

### **How Parents Can Help:**

We understand that unforeseen circumstances may arise, and absences are sometimes unavoidable. However, we encourage you to partner with us in prioritizing attendance whenever possible. Establishing a routine, setting clear expectations, and emphasizing the importance of punctuality are simple yet effective ways to instill the value of regular attendance in your child.

### **Together, Let's Foster a Culture of Attendance:**

Our commitment to your child's success goes hand in hand with your active involvement. Let's work together to create a culture where every student feels excited to attend school, knowing that each day contributes to their academic and personal growth.

*Thank you for your continued support in ensuring that every child has the opportunity to thrive. If you have any questions or concerns regarding attendance, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. Together, we can make this academic year one filled with achievement, growth, and success.*





# MIDDLE SCHOOL PBIS

## WHY IS PBIS IMPORTANT IN MIDDLE SCHOOL?

PBIS is a proactive approach to cultivating a positive school culture by reinforcing and acknowledging appropriate behavior, and fostering a safe and inclusive learning environment for our students. In the middle school years, students undergo crucial social and emotional development, and PBIS plays a pivotal role in guiding them towards responsible decision-making and respectful interactions. By consistently promoting positive behaviors, setting clear expectations, and providing meaningful incentives, PBIS not only contributes to a harmonious school atmosphere but also helps students develop essential life skills. It lays the foundation for a supportive community where students can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. Your partnership in reinforcing these positive behaviors at home further strengthens the impact of PBIS, creating a collaborative effort to ensure the success and well-being of our middle school students.

## PBIS EXPECTATIONS:

Be Safe

- Make safe and healthy choices.

Be Respectful

- Be considerate towards yourself, others, and property.

Be Responsible

- Do what is expected of you.

## PBIS RE-BOOTS

After each extended vacation, teachers will take time to revisit our school expectations. Revisiting PBIS expectations after a vacation is crucial to ensure a smooth transition back to the school routine. It helps reinforce positive behaviors, reminds students of school norms, and establishes a consistent and supportive environment, promoting a successful return to learning.



*3-Strike Activities*



# 6TH GRADE NEWS

## ELA

We are reading Percy Jackson: Lightning Thief and learning about Gods and mythology. We are also learning how to answer questions with a short response using text evidence.

## Math

We are introducing students to algebra. We are practicing order of operations, and focusing on exponents.

## Science

We are learning about density and using it to help with identifying mystery materials and why some things float or sink when combined with other materials.



## Social Studies

This month we are learning about the ancient civilization of Mesopotamia. Currently the students are creating a "travel brochure" in hopes of enticing ancient travelers to visit and enjoy everything the area had to offer!



We are always grateful for your help and we are asking if you could help us with an issue that is occurring across the grade. Students follow most of our PBIS expectations well, but we seem to be having trouble with off-task talking during class. If you could help us out by talking with your child about why that may be an issue, we would really appreciate it!

## Art

Students are working on a silhouette painting of birds in a tree.

## Music

Students have been working on music literacy so they have a better understanding of reading and playing music written in Treble Clef and Bass Clef. We've also spent time on our Music Math unit where students learn the connection between Rhythm and Math and how the two work together. Most recently we've begun focusing on the instrument families and have spent time identifying their Timbre or quality of sound.

## CTE

Students are currently working on creating a growth mindset and typing skills.

## PE

The girls are learning the basic skill of volleyball and we are on our way to playing in a full volleyball game! The boys are learning how to dribble and shoot.



- December 20th: 2nd marking period incentive trip to see a movie at the Fingerlakes Mall.
- December 21st: PJ Day and Holiday Party
- January 23rd and 24th: ELA and Math Midterms
- January 30th: Circus (6th Grade Fundraiser)





# 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

## happenings

### Our BIG events!

**Book Market:** The culminating event of this year's summer reading assignment, "The Book Market," was a huge success. Kids 'sold' their books at the market in the library.

**Hispanic Heritage Festival:** Students impressed the community with their knowledge at the festival. Tacos, music, and art were enjoyed by all!

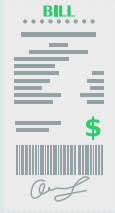
**Dia de los muertos celebration:** Students learned about this Latin American tradition through a variety of activities. This included the construction of traditional ofrendas (offerings), baking pan de muerto, and decorating sugar skulls.

**Three Strike Incentives:** The first incentive celebration was in-house, where students played games and cooked etc. For the second marking period, we went to Cortland. Some kids tried ice skating for their first time! Our next celebration will be in January.



### Ask ask the kids about:

1 How much tip should be left at the next dinner out.



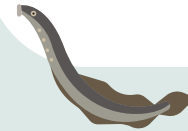
2 Which First Chapter Friday book has been their favorite.

3 The "Puedo ir al Baño song in la clase de español.



4 Which classmate is the best fur trader?

5 The sea lamprey's rasping tongue and their impact on lake trout populations in the Great Lakes.



6 What was the topic of their Echoes assignment?



### PBIS in 7th Grade

#### Behaviors we've focused on

- Being on time and prepared for class
- Being responsible - Keeping Chromebook charged and bringing a pencil to class
- Being respectful and kind to ourselves, teachers and peers



### Meet Mr. Smith

Mr. Smith is the long term sub for Mrs. Ryan. He is enjoying teaching ELA at Moravia. He will be with us until February, the end of Mrs. Ryan's maternity leave.

"Mr. Smith makes learning fun because he gives us cool incentives to reach our goals."



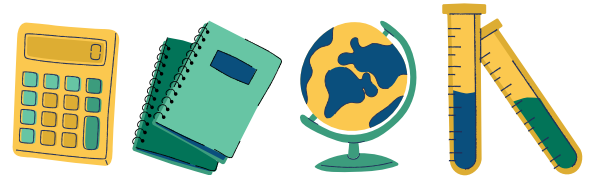
Mrs. Ryan and her girls at a Turkey Trot



# 8TH GRADE NEWS

## WE ARE CURRENTLY STUDYING...

<b>MATH</b>	Linear Equations & Functions
<b>ELA</b>	<u>A Long Way Down</u> by Jason Reynolds
<b>SCIENCE</b>	Energy! (How Plants and Animals get energy)
<b>SPANISH</b>	Running of the Bulls in Spain, Holiday Traditions in Central and South America
<b>SOCIAL STUDIES</b>	Industrialization & Immigration - "Did Industrialization lead to the success or the failure of the American Dream?"



## NYS Science Investigation: Cool It!

8th graders finished the first round of their Science Investigation! Our next investigation will be happening at the end of the Energy unit in Science class (dates TBD). Stay tuned!

★ ELA & MATH Midterms will be January 23rd & 24th



We recently celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month & Dia de los Muertos!



8th Grade 3 Strike Trip to CHAMPIONS For Life





# COUNSELING OFFICE

## Middle School Counselor

This time of year can be stressful for many, including adolescents. The holiday season is wonderful but can also bring up feelings of grief, due to the loss of loved ones. Also, we are almost halfway through the year and students begin to feel the stress of midterms and grades. The following tips for anxiety can be helpful to decrease stress and also increase mood. As always, please reach out to me with any questions or concerns.

Tammy Austin  
taustin@moraviaschool.org

### Tips For Anxiety



- 

Practice breathing exercises
- 

Find a creative activity
- 

Take care of your sleeping routine
- 

Focus only on the present
- 

It's ok to ask for help
- 

Stay active
- 

Take a pause
- 

Drink cold water

## ALLIANCE OF PARENTS & TEACHERS

### Here are some ways you can help:

- Attend meetings in-person or virtually to share your great ideas with the team
- Sign-up to help run the ES or MS book fairs
- Volunteer your time to serve breakfast on state test days
- Volunteer your time during teacher appreciation week (plans have not been established yet for this year)
- You can be a part of decision making and have first hand knowledge of upcoming events!
- Join the APT Facebook page to stay up to date with current info

### MEETING DATES

- When: The 3rd Monday of every month
- Location: Elementary School Distance Learning Lab \*OR JOIN BY ZOOM!  
Please e-mail Shannon Williams for the ZOOM link  
swilliams@moraviaschool.org
- Time: 6:30 p.m.

**YOUR INVOLVEMENT CAN BE AS MUCH OR AS LITTLE AS YOUR SCHEDULE ALLOWS**



# EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES!



## JOIN THE BLUE DEVIL FAMILY!

Applications are continuously being accepted for substitutes in the areas of teachers, support staff, licensed LPNs and RNs, and bus drivers. If you enjoy working with children and can help out, please complete the appropriate application listed on the website under Job Opportunities (on the bottom of the homepage), or call or stop by the district office (315-497-2670) for an application.



## DISTRICT SUBSTITUTES

10 Reasons to Start Substitute Teaching Today

1. You will make a difference in students' lives.
2. You do not need to be a certified teacher.
3. You can explore a career that you might be interested in.
4. You can help your community school.
5. You can continue other work.
6. You can pick the classrooms you teach in.
7. You can network with other teachers.
8. You can expand your skills.
9. You can learn a lot.
10. You'll have fun!

## BUS DRIVERS

- Paid Bus Driver Training is being offered at \$15.00 per hour.
- Once a person is trained, and obtains the proper license, the rate will go to \$18.50 per hour for substitute bus drivers
- Contact Danielle Winters, Transportation Supervisor at (315) 497-2670, ext. 3002

## SUBSTITUTE RATES

- Teacher - \$125/day (certified)
- Teacher - \$110/day (uncertified)
- Teaching Assistant - \$105/day
- Teacher Aide - \$15.00/hour
- RN - \$125/day; LPN/\$115
- Clerical - \$16.30/hr.
- Cafeteria - \$15.00/hr.
- Cleaner - \$15.55/hr.
- Bus Attendant - \$15.00/hr.
- Bus Driver - \$18.50/hr.

We are  
**HIRING**



# #MAKELEARNINGIRRESISTIBLE

