

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL

Quarterly Newsletter

Issue #1 - 23/24

A NOTE FROM MRS. LOVE

Middle School Principal

Welcome, students and families, to the 2023-2024 school year!

We look forward to the start of the new school year and continuing our goal of ensuring that all students achieve high levels of learning.

All of our faculty and staff are dedicated to ensuring the best possible learning experience for our students as they develop as scholars and citizens. We are dedicated to the success of each student and recognize the importance of working with families as partners! I encourage you to continue to be involved in your child's education and their experience here in middle school! It is our goal to keep you informed with these quarterly newsletters, Google Classrooms, and our MS page on the district website. Keeping open communication, working as a team, and pursuing continuous improvement will ensure that this school year is rewarding and enjoyable. We can't wait to get started and hope to see you all at our Open House on August 31st! We have some exciting things planned for that night!

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- 8/31 - MS Open House and Food Truck Rodeo!
- 9/5 - First Day for Students
- 9/8 - Grade 8 to Casowasco
- 9/15 - Grade 7 to Casowasco
- 9/19 - Grade 6 to Emerson
- 10/9 - Columbus Day - NO SCHOOL
- 10/19 - MS Student-Led Parent Conferences.
Dismissal for **MS** Students at 11:30 a.m.
- 10/20 - Staff Development Day - NO SCHOOL
- 10/21 - Cabaret Held in HS Gymnasium
- 10/23 - MS Student-Led Parent Conferences - NO SCHOOL for MS/HS Students
- 12/2 & 12/3 - MS Play (more info to come)
- 12/7 - MS Holiday Concert

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.
2. Walkers should enter through the HS main entrance.
3. Late arrivals have to sign in at the MS office to receive a pass.
4. 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.

- 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 December





MIDDLE SCHOOL INFO CONT'D...

SCHOOL LUNCH NEWS

We are excited to announce that ALL of our students are able to receive 1 FREE BREAKFAST & 1 FREE LUNCH daily this year!

Additional meals, chips, snacks, ice cream and beverages will still be available for purchase with cash or with funds that are added to a student's meal account.

IMPORTANT: We do still need parents to complete the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Household Income Eligibility Form that will be handed out at open house. We appreciate the time it takes to do that as this form is used to determine eligibility for additional state and federal program benefits that your child (ren) may qualify for.

COMMUNICATION

The District is moving to a new communication tool - ParentSquare!


In the past we used Remind for communication with teachers and coaches, and School Messenger for District level communication. We are now bringing all of these platforms together with ParentSquare!

For more information visit our website under Community or click on this QR code!





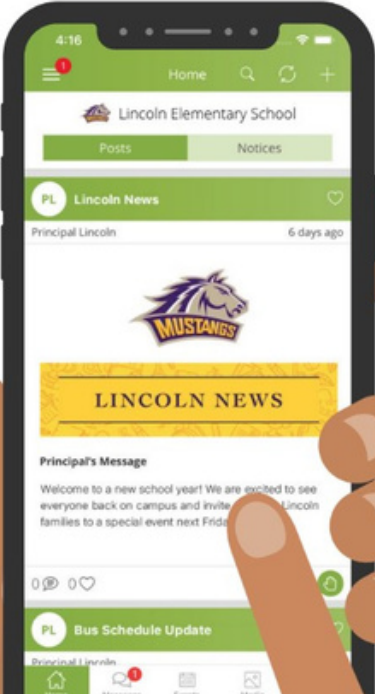
SIGN UP FOR PARENTSQUARE!

Register Your Account



Then Download the App



IMPORTANT DISMISSAL CHANGES

WEDNESDAYS ONLY

- On Wednesdays, students in MS and HS will be dismissed before the ES students at 2:25 pm. **This will NOT impact dismissal time for ES students.*
- This will result in all ES, MS, and HS bussers arriving home approximately 20 minutes earlier than usual on WEDNESDAYS.
- This change was made to support important work that the MS & HS departments engage in to provide your students with the best access to their education.

AFTER SCHOOL LIBRARY PROGRAM

- The after-school Library program will still be available at dismissal (2:25 p.m.) for students on Wednesdays
- Students will be expected to 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.

ATHLETIC STUDY HALL

- Student-athletes will have the opportunity to stay in a supervised study hall until their coach is available to begin practice.

Attendance in school is becoming an increasing concern nationwide. Here at Moravia, we strive to have our students present every day. When they are not in their classrooms learning, they are missing VITAL experiences to enhance their education. We count on our parents as partners to ensure our students attend school every day. Your child is important to us, and our staff is here to help and support if concerns arise!



Attendance Matters

Every student. Every day.

WHY IS SCHOOL ATTENDANCE SO IMPORTANT?

School attendance is an important indicator of how successful a student will be in school. Because of this, we strive to have every student here, on-time, every day! When students aren't in the classroom, they are missing out on the teaching, discussion, collaboration, and engagement that takes place in the classroom with their teachers and classmates.

According to research, "Students who attend school regularly have been shown to achieve at higher levels than students who do not have regular attendance. This relationship between attendance and achievement may appear early in a child's school career."

Taken from: Every School Day Counts: The Forum Guide to Collecting and Using Attendance Data - Why Does Attendance Matter?
nces.ed.gov/pubs2009/attendancedata/chapter1a.aspx

LET'S WORK TOGETHER!

- Make school an expectation. Talk with your child about the importance of attending school each day, and make it a priority!
- Don't let your child stay home unless they are truly sick.
- Help your child establish a regular routine. Maintaining a consistent bedtime and wake-up time can make morning routines smoother.
- Communicate with the school and your child's teacher if your child will be absent for any reason. Keep track of your child's attendance through SchoolTool.
- If your child has been absent, help them monitor the work they missed and take advantage of the after-school library program to help them get caught up.



CODE OF CONDUCT INFO

Last year we had great success with the implementation of our new expectations for personal technology device usage. Our Middle School students left their phones and smartwatches safely in their lockers with the exception of lunchtime. This small change had huge positive impacts on student engagement, social interaction, and discipline. Thank you in advance for your support of these expectations for the betterment of our students! ~Mrs. Love

CELL PHONES

*Policy as written in the
MCSD Code of Conduct:*

- Student cell phones and other personal electronic devices, including smartwatches, must be stored in student lockers during the instructional day
- Students will be permitted to use their personal electronic devices during their lunch period

Consequences will include a relinquishment of the electronic device to the school administration and may yield suspension from school for repeated violations.

*Please note that the MS Office follows the following protocol:

1st offense: Relinquish of device to Main Office until end of day

2nd offense: Relinquish of device to Main Office & parent phone call

3rd offense: Relinquish of device & parent required to pick up device

*additional violations may result in disciplinary action

DRESS CODE

*Policy as written in the
MCSD Code of Conduct:*

A student's dress shall:

- Not include open-back shirts/blouses, tube tops, sports bras, or tops with large cutouts on the side
- Shirts must be long enough to cover the majority of the abdomen and provide adequate coverage at the neckline
- Not include costume apparel - with the exception of special events
- Not include chains, choke collars, collars with spikes, and other related items that may be considered dangerous



MIDDLE SCHOOL PBIS

WHAT IS PBIS?

PBIS stands for Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports. It is a school-wide effort to support students' social-emotional wellbeing, and academic success while improving the overall school climate. Our behavioral expectations focus on helping students to be Safe, Respectful, and Responsible in all school settings. When those expectations are not met, we spend time discussing and modeling the expectations several times to try and prevent a disciplinary consequence. PBIS emphasizes relationships between students and the adults in the building as we strive to acknowledge all of the positives we see throughout the school day!



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 KICK-OFF

We will dedicate time during the first days of school to teach students the behavioral expectations. They will have time to practice Safe, Responsible, and Respectful behavior throughout the school. Students will rotate through stations to learn about appropriate behavior on the bus, in the auditorium during forum and lunch, the hallways, in the bathrooms and locker rooms, in the cafeteria, and in the classroom.

The second day of school will end with a PBIS kick-off event in the auditorium for all students. We hope to have a visit from our blue devil mascot as we celebrate what "true blue" middle school behavior looks like in our building. There will be music, raffles, prizes, and a good time had by all!

LITTLE BLUE GROWS UP...



Little Blue, the MFES PBIS mascot, gets a middle school makeover.

6TH GRADE NEWS



Mr. Ott ~ Special Education Teacher

This is my 23rd year teaching. I just recently retired from the Marine Corps after 30 years!! I enjoy coaching and riding my Harley. I am married with 2 sons.

Mrs. Magill ~ Teaching Assistant

This is my 10th year at Moravia. My hobbies include gardening, boating and spending time with my family. I have two daughters, two dogs and one cat.

Mrs. Johnson~ ELA

This is my 21st year of teaching. I love to read, travel, go to the theater and spend time with my family. I have 2 children

Ms. Kneer ~ Science

This is my 21st year teaching at Moravia. I love to work in the garden, hiking and photography. I have one daughter, two granddaughters, a dog, two lizards and fish.

Mr. Gremler ~ Math

This is my 23rd year of teaching. I'm married with 4 kids and a dog. I enjoy snowboarding and coaching.

Mr. Porter ~ SS

This is my 26th year teaching and I am excited to join the Middle School! I have 4 children. My favorite place to vacation is sunny Florida. I enjoy snowmobiling and fishing.

We look forward to meeting you at the 6th Grade Open House which is Thursday, August 31st from 3:30-4:30. We will share information to assist your child with the transition into middle school.

Just a friendly reminder... the summer reading assignment is due Friday, September 22nd. Please contact Mrs. Perine (jperine@moraviaschool.org) if you have any questions.

ParentSquare:

We will use the ParentSquare app to share important updates and information. Signup information will be shared at Open House.

MEET THE 7TH GRADE TEAM

Mrs. Perine-Spanish



Mr. Reynolds-Social Studies



Mrs. Cheney-Math



Mr. Greer-Science



Mrs. Ryan-ELA



Mrs. Redmond-Special Education

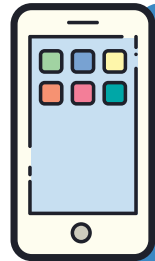


Mrs. Raymond-Teacher Assistant



Open House

- We are so excited to meet you at Open House on 8/31/23!
- Our time slot is from 4:15-5:15 pm.
- Your child will have an opportunity to receive their schedule, meet with their house leader, and learn important information for the upcoming year.



COMMUNICATION

- ParentSquare: We will use the ParentSquare App to share important updates and information such as field trip forms, schedule changes, assignment reminders, and important events.
- Academic Check-ins: Be on the lookout every Friday for weekly updates of your child's grades, sports eligibility, and attendance in the owed workroom. Please sign the academic check-in to verify that you have seen it and have your child return it to their house leader by the following Tuesday.



JUST A FRIENDLY REMINDER... THE SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT IS DUE FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH. PLEASE CONTACT MRS. RYAN (ARYAN@MORAVIASCHOOL.ORG) IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

MEET THE 8TH GRADE TEAM

MRS. BIRMINGHAM
ELA



MRS. PORTEN
SOCIAL STUDIES



MS. WRIGHT
SCIENCE



MRS. CARY
MATH



MS. STOYELL
SPANISH



MS. MICHAELS
SPECIAL EDUCATION



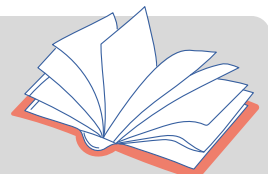
MRS. CAZA
TEACHER ASSISTANT



OPEN HOUSE

- We are excited to meet you all at Open House on August 31st.
- At this time, your child will receive their schedule and meet their house leader.
- We will also have important documents for you to fill out to update SchoolTool.
- Our assigned time is 5 pm to 6 pm and we will meet you in the auditorium for a brief presentation.

Summer reading!



This is just a friendly reminder that the summer reading assignment is due by Sept. 8th.

If you have any questions, contact Mrs. Birmingham.

(sbirmingham@moraviaschool.org)

UPCOMING EVENTS

To kickoff the school year, we are having an all day field trip to Casowasco, on Friday, September 9th! Students will have the opportunity to work together to achieve common goals, build community within their house and have an all-around great day! Students must wear sneakers and bring a lunch (a bagged lunch provided by the school can be requested prior to the trip). Students will also have the opportunity to swim if they choose to!

Contact Information

You can reach teachers via parent square or email us!

Mrs. Birmingham -
sbirmingham@moraviaschool.org

Mrs. Porten -
sporten@moraviaschool.org

Ms. Wright -
gwright@moraviaschool.org

Mrs. Cary -
mcary@moraviaschool.org

Ms. Stoyell -
tstoyell@moraviaschool.org

COUNSELING OFFICE



A NOTE FROM MRS. AUSTIN

Middle School Counselor

Hello! I am so excited for the new school year to begin. If your child needs counseling support or you have any questions please reach out to me at (315) 497-2670, ext 2012. You can also reach me by email at taustin@moraviaschool.org. Please stop in to my office during open house and come say hello. I am looking forward to seeing you soon.

Tips for Back-to-School Success

- Establish a morning & evening routine
- Don't skip breakfast
- Pick outfits out and pack lunches the night before
- Stock up on school supplies
- Prepare a homework space at home
- Complete summer assignments before the first day of classes



TECHNOLOGY TIPS

- Keep your Chromebook on a flat surface like a table or a desk. (Don't leave it on the floor where someone could step on it.)
- Don't pile things on top of your Chromebook.
- Keep food and drinks away from your Chromebook and make sure your hands are clean.
- Be careful how you carry your Chromebook. Make sure your Chromebook is closed, always use two hands, and never carry your Chromebook by the screen.
- Keep it charged. Plug it in when you are not using it so that it will be charged and ready when you need it.
- Tell your teacher right away if it breaks. Don't try to fix it yourself.
- Remember to take care of yourself online too. Stay on approved websites, keep your password private, and log off when you're done. Remember anything that happens under your account is your responsibility.

COMMONSENSEMEDIA.ORG

It's almost school time, here are some tips to prep your student for the return to school with technology!

- Bring back family screen time rules.
- Learn ways to keep screen time healthy for your family.
- Get ready to use tech for school.
- Brush up on skills before school starts.

For the full article go to <https://www.commonsensemedia.org/article/s/back-to-school-reset-4-tips-on-managing-devices-and-screen-time-for-families>

ALLIANCE OF PARENTS & TEACHERS

Still on the fence about joining APT? Here are some reasons why you should...

- ✓ Most kids feel PROUD when their parent volunteers in their school!
- ✓ It's GREAT to socialize with other parents!
- ✓ Your involvement can be as much or as little as your schedule allows!
- ✓ Studies show that students who's parents volunteer do better academically.
- ✓ You can be a part of decision making and have first hand knowledge of upcoming events!

Stop by the APT table at OPEN HOUSE on 8/31/23 to learn about all of the ways APT helps our students and our school district!

MEETING DATES

- When: The 3rd Monday of every month
- Location: Elementary School Distance Learning Lab *OR JOIN BY ZOOM!
Please e-mail Cheri Kemp for the ZOOM link ckemp@moraviaschool.org
- Time: 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

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



MORAVIA ATHLETICS

Welcome back, Blue Devil Nation! We are excited to kick off the 2023 fall athletic season. Students entering 7th and 8th grade have the opportunity to sign-up for modified cross country, modified field hockey, modified football, and modified soccer for the fall season.

ACADEMIC BENEFITS OF SPORTS

According to an article posted by the University of Rochester, "Studies have shown that exercise increases blood flow to the brain and helps the body build more connections between nerves, leading to increased concentration, enhanced memory, stimulated creativity, and better-developed problem-solving skills. In short, playing sports helps your brain grow and makes it work better."

<https://www.rochester.edu/team/benefits-of-sports-to-students/>

READY TO SIGN UP?

Students can register for a sport by going to our athletic webpage and signing up on Family ID. Fall registration closes on September 15th, 2023.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact the Athletic Department.

GO BLUE!!!

UPCOMING SPORTS IMPORTANT DATES

8/16 - Meet the Coaches night in the HS cafeteria at 6:00 pm.

8/18 & 8/22 - Physicals available at the ES nurse's office from 8 am - 2:45 pm.

Contact Mrs. Schillawski with questions @ jschillawski@moraviaschool.org.

8/19 - Football practice starts

8/21 - Practice starts for all other fall teams

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

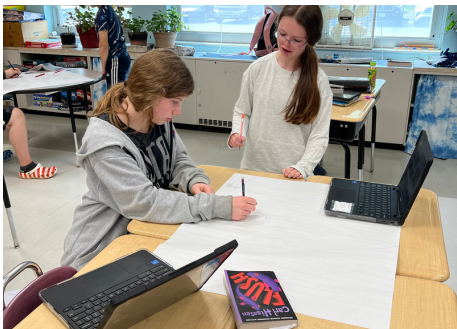
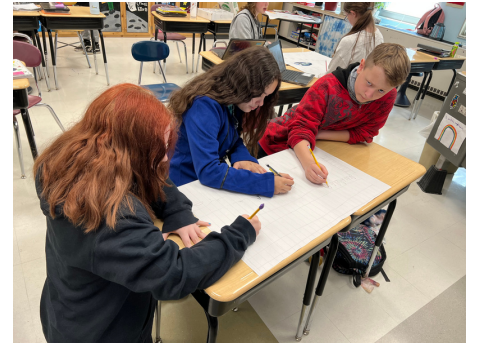
- Paid Bus Driver Training is being offered at \$15.00 per hour.
- Once a person is trained, and obtains the proper license, the rate will go to \$18.50 per hour for substitute bus drivers
- Contact Danielle Winters, Transportation Supervisor at (315) 497-2670, ext. 3002

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





S P I R I T
WEEK

SEPTEMBER 25- SEPTEMBER 29

MONDAY

USA DAY

TUESDAY

*FAVORITE MOVIE
CHARACTER DAY*

WEDNESDAY

PINK DAY

THURSDAY

*STUDENTS DRESS LIKE
TEACHERS; TEACHERS
DRESS LIKE STUDENTS!*

FRIDAY

*BLUE & WHITE
DAY*