

MORAVIA MIDDLE SCHOOL

Quarterly Newsletter

Issue #3 - 23/24

A NOTE FROM MRS. LOVE

Middle School Principal

Can you believe it's already the third quarter? We are at the tail end of a relatively fair winter and hopefully sunnier days are in our near future!

I want to express my gratitude for your ongoing support and share my admiration for our middle school students! We truly have an amazing group of kids and families, and I feel so fortunate to have this time with the students to get to know them all more personally.

The third quarter can sometimes feel challenging, but remember, each obstacle is an opportunity for growth. Perseverance is the key to unlocking potential and is imperative for success in both academic and personal growth.

I encourage you to celebrate your child's accomplishments, both big and small, and continue fostering a sense of responsibility at home.

As a home/ school team, we can empower our students to confidently face the future with resilience and a deep understanding of the importance of responsibility.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

3/12 - District-wide band concert 7 pm

3/14 - HALF DAY - Dismissal @ 11:30 a.m.

3/15 - NO SCHOOL

3/21 - World Down Syndrome Day - Rock Your Socks; Wear colorful socks today to support World Down Syndrome Day!

3/22 & 3/23 - HS Musical @ 7 pm

3/24 - HS Musical @ 2 pm

4/1 - No School for Students

4/8 - Half day - ECLIPSE DAY; Dismissal for MS @ 11:30 a.m.

4/10 & 4/11 - ELA State test

4/22 - 4/26 - SPRING BREAK - No School

5/8 & 5/9 - Math State test

5/14 - Science State test - 8th graders only

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.

Please note that Mrs. Copley is no longer working in the MS office but you may email Mrs. Pasho at dpasho@moraviaschool.org.

We wish Mrs. Copley the best of luck in her new adventure.

CODE OF CONDUCT INFO

We have had great success implementing our personal technology device usage expectations. Our Middle School students leave their phones and smartwatches safely in their lockers with the exception of lunchtime. This small change has had a huge positive impact on student engagement, social interaction, and discipline. Recently, we have needed more reminders as we have has students texting using watches during class times and pulling out phones that were hidden in pockets. 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





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.

Improving Attendance is one of our Middle School goals for the 2023-2034 school year!

Goal: Achieve an attendance rate of 95% or higher for grades 6, 7, and 8

2022-2023 = 6th Grade 93.5%; 7th Grade 93.1%; 8th Grade 92.1%

CURRENT STATUS: 6th Grade 94.18%; 7th Grade 92.64%; 8th Grade 92.35%

We appreciate your support and your recognition of the importance of school attendance!

MIDDLE SCHOOL PBIS



WHY IS PBIS IMPORTANT IN MIDDLE SCHOOL?

PBIS focuses on explicitly teaching and modeling appropriate school expectations. When students aren't meeting those expectations, our teachers' first response is to address the specific behavior and reteach the expectation to the student. Additionally, staff focuses on positive behavior and acknowledges students when they are making good choices, sometimes publicly and sometimes with just an individual comment or conversation. Since we implemented PBIS at the Middle School level, behaviors have improved and referrals have decreased by 70%!

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. 7th grade students wrote short skits to perform in groups to their grade after our February break. The skits were a great way to reinforce school-wide expectations!

TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Don't post any personal information online – like your address, phone number, or email address on any social platform.



Before you post or send a picture or a video of yourself, remember to ask this question: "Am I okay if the entire world sees this too?"

Remember that not everyone online is who they say they are!
Don't be online friends with people you don't already know.



Keep privacy settings as high as possible. Do not use common/known words or numbers in your passwords (such as birthday or pet name).

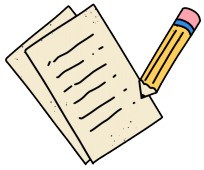
Chromebook Care

Keep your cases on your Chromebooks! They are there to protect your device.
Never have liquids near your Chromebook while it is open.

STAY CYBER SMART!



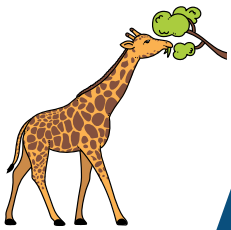
6TH GRADE NEWS



ELA: Students are reading Hunger Games or The River (depending on the class) and really working on comprehension. We continue working on writing good short responses using text evidence. We also are continuing to work on grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, character development and vocabulary.



How do we calculate the percent of an item? Some students are working on learning how to answer this and other questions about percents. Some students are also learning about ratios and rates.



Sixth graders love animals! Which is a good thing since we are learning a lot about them in science class. Students have been researching how animals survive in their environment based on traits and adaptations they may have. Students have also been involved in an exciting project called March Mammal Madness. You'll have to ask them all about it!



- March 15th: No School
- March 27th: Field Trip to the MOST in Syracuse - more info to follow
- March 29th: No School
- April 8th: Solar Eclipse Day! Half Day of School
- April 10th and 11th: ELA State Testing
- April 22nd-26th: Spring Break
- May 8th and 9th: Math State Testing



In SS, we are learning about the Ancient Greeks. Students are exploring the essential question of... Why do people form governments? Students will begin researching a god or goddess of interest and creating a Google slide project.



7TH GRADE

happenings



Ask the kids about:

1

Which poem in Poet V Poet basketball has been their favorite?



2

What is the most exciting or interesting thing they have seen using a microscope?

3

What are two ways to represent data?

4

How to tell time in Spanish! How high can they count in Spanish?

5

The springs sports starting up... Do they want to join a team? Contact us!

6

The Articles of Confederation Simulation

Our BIG events!



Echoes: Congratulations to 7th grader Briella Anderson for being one of the showcased authors in the Echoes performance!

Revolutionary War Dodgeball:

During a Social Studies themed breakout day students simulated what it was like to fight during the American Revolution!

Three Strike Incentive: We are going to Champions for Life on Monday, March 18! Be on the lookout for a permission slip on Parent Square.

Science Investigations: Students completed their first NYS Lab Investigation (Cool It!) and are gearing up for their second investigation, which involves looking at tiny things under microscopes (It's Alive).



State Tests
will be
ELA: April 10th & 11th
Math: May 8th & 9th



PBIS in 7th Grade

Behaviors we've focused on

- Being on time and prepared for class
- Mystery students being on task and engaged

Enterprise America

We will be going to Enterprise American on June 7th! Stay tuned for more details and a request for parent volunteers!



8TH GRADE NEWS

Classroom News!

ELA

Students are reading *The Outsiders* while tracing the development of characters throughout the novel, and further exploring the essential questions for the school year based on the themes of justice and injustice.



Spanish

Students are learning about clothing vocabulary while studying parts of the body.



Math

Students recently finished learning about transformations, angles, and triangles and will next be learning about the Pythagorean Theorem.



Science

Students will be working towards completing their mandatory NYS investigations. The first one is "Cool It!" relating to Thermal Energy and the second is called "Mix it Up!" that focuses on separating mixtures.



Social Studies

Students have been learning about the Women's Rights Movement. Recently, they have been evaluating and furthermore discussing and writing about whether efforts were successful as well as if women are considered to be equal in society today.



EVENTS!



MARCH IS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH!

You will be able to see students one pagers around the school during the month of March to celebrate how women have faced limitations in our nation's past and the efforts people have taken to address those limitations.

SCIENCE INVESTIGATIONS

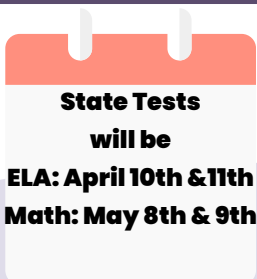
Students will be working towards completing their mandatory NYS investigations. The first one is "Cool It!" relating to Thermal Energy and the second is called "Mix it Up!" that focuses on separating mixtures.

8TH GRADE BOCES VISIT

Students visited the Cayuga-Onondaga BOCES to tour classrooms and discover more about the CTE programs offered.

ECHOES

Congratulations to Natalie Reeves for being one of the showcased authors in the Echoes performance!



State Tests
will be
ELA: April 10th & 11th
Math: May 8th & 9th



PBIS Behavior

- ✓ KINDNESS, LOVE AND RESPECT shown through attitude, effort and how students act toward one another.



COUNSELING OFFICE

The Importance of Good Friends:

- Improves your mood
- Helps you to reach your goals Reduces stress and depression
- A support system through tough times
- Boost your self-worth

The only way to have a friend is to be one.

Teaching Your Student What to Look for in a Friend:

- The person should show a genuine interest in what is going on in your life and how you think and feel
- Friends should accept you for who you are
- Friends should feel comfortable sharing things about themselves with you
- Friends should never make you do things to get in trouble or that you are not comfortable with

*Taken from Psychology Today



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

