

# WELCOME TO MORAVIA MIDDLE SCHOOL

Quarterly Newsletter

Issue #3 - 24/25

## A NOTE FROM MRS. LOVE

*Middle School Principal*

*As we enter the third quarter of the school year, I want to take a moment to thank you for your continued support and partnership. This is a crucial time for students to stay focused, set goals, and finish the year strong. We are proud of their hard work and growth so far!*

*One of our key goals is maintaining at least 95% attendance, as being present each day is essential for student success. Thank you for encouraging your child to attend school regularly and stay engaged in learning. In this newsletter, you'll find important updates, upcoming events, and ways to stay involved in our school community. As always, please don't hesitate to reach out if we can support your child's success in any way.*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

3/3 - 3/7 - Read Across America Spirit Week

3/6 - District Choral Concert

3/11 - District Instrumental Concert

3/12 - BOE Meeting @ 7 PM

3/13 - 8th Grade Parent Night @ 5 PM

3/21 - HS Musical; Footloose @ 7 pm

3/22 - HS Musical: Footloose @ 7 pm

3/23 - HS Musical; Footloose @ 2 pm

3/23 - CIRCUS!

3/26 - BOE Meeting @ 7 PM

4/14 - 4/18 - NO SCHOOL; Spring Recess

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## 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...



## ATTENDANCE

In the Middle School, we strive for 95% attendance!

Current standing:

Grade 6 = 93.12 %

Grade 7 = 94.41 %

Grade 8 = 91.2 %

## HOW CAN FAMILIES HELP?

When students miss school or arrive late, they fall behind in lessons, struggle to keep up with assignments, and miss valuable interactions with teachers and peers. Chronic absences can lead to lower grades, reduced engagement, and long-term academic challenges. Families can help by setting consistent morning routines, ensuring students get enough sleep, and emphasizing the importance of attendance. Open communication with the school about any challenges can also lead to support and solutions that keep students on track.

## COMMUNICATION

The District uses Parent Square as our main source of communication with families.

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



Please be sure to keep emergency contact phone numbers current in the Middle School office for school messaging.

## ARRIVAL/ DISMISSAL

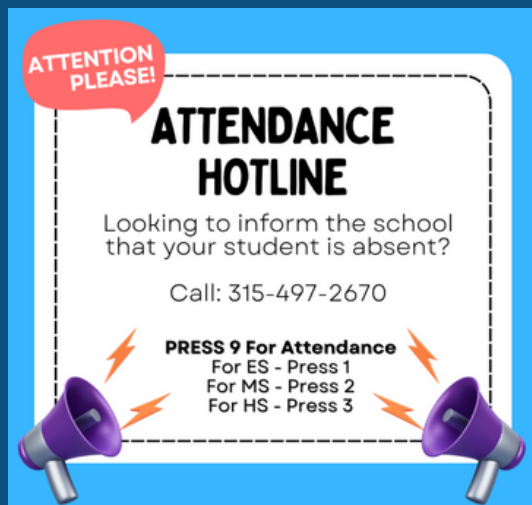
**PLEASE BE SURE YOUR CHILD IS ON-TIME FOR SCHOOL EVERY DAY.**

Attendance is taken at 7:50.

All students should be seated in forum at that time.

1. Walkers should enter through the HS main entrance.
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.
4. Dismissal on WEDNESDAYS is @ 2:25 PM for MS/HS students

## ATTENDANCE



You may also email Mrs. Torok at [ltorok@moraviaschool.org](mailto:ltorok@moraviaschool.org) or reach her through ParentSquare.

Please watch for the next newsletter to be posted in May





# OUR MISSION AND VISION

**MORAVIA**  
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

**BLUEPRINT FOR EXCELLENCE**  
OVERVIEW & HIGHLIGHTS

## MISSION, VISION & CORE VALUES

**MISSION STATEMENT**

*Our mission is to ensure individuals explore their passions, engage with purpose, and achieve academic excellence.*

**VISION STATEMENT**

*We aspire to be a world class community school that is a district of choice for all students and staff.*





# 6TH GRADE NEWS



In ELA the students have been working hard! A big part of class time has been dedicated to reading Brian's Winter, the classic alternate ending book to Hatchet, which the kids read in school previously. Along with reading the story, the kids have been completing Reader's Notes to help with their understanding of the book and improve their writing skills. Coupled with that has been the students completing Free Writes every other day, which allows the kids to write about whatever they want to help try and have the kids practice their writing, get creative, and see writing as more fun!

$$y = mx + b$$

In math the students have been working hard on algebra. They have been writing both expressions and equations, and evaluating them. We will continue this and start working on ratios, rates, and percentages.



Students have enjoyed learning about phases of matter in science. We focused on the three primary states, solids, liquids and gases, and how heat energy affects the molecules in each phase. The material covered will help students understand the concepts to be covered in our next unit - the water cycle! Students will develop an understanding of how water moves through the environment in a continuous process. Both of these units will build a strong foundation for our upcoming weather unit.

## Save the Date

- Mar. 14th ~ End of Marking Period  
(Incentive Date/Activity TBD)
- Mar. 18th ~ Field Trip to MOST
- Mar. 24th ~ Circus Night! (6th Grade Fundraiser)
- Apr. 23rd and 24th ~ ELA State Test
- Apr. 30th and May 1st ~ Math State Test
- May 31st ~ 5th Marking Period Incentive Trip to Syracuse Mets



In our recent history lessons, we learned about one of ancient Egypt's most famous rulers, King Tutankhamun, or King Tut! Our students were amazed that he became a pharaoh at just 9 years old. This month, our class will be exploring the history and culture of the ancient Israelites. We will be studying their beliefs, key figures, and the impact they had on the world. Students will be learning about important leaders like Moses and King David, and the significance of the Torah, the Israelites' sacred text.

# 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

## happenings

### Revolutionary War Dodgeball



Academic Check ins should come home every Tuesday!



DON'T FORGET!



### Ask ask the kids about:

1

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

2

In their class, who's catapult launched the farthest? What is kinetic energy?

3

What do they know about our country's government?

4

Describe people in Spanish. What Spanish song is stuck in their head these days?

5

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

6

How'd they do on their Revolutionary War SS test

7

What is the "For the love of reading genre book fair?"

### Our BIG events:

#### Revolutionary War Dodgeball:

During a Social Studies themed breakout day students learned and simulated the tactics, strategies, advantages and disadvantages of the both the Patriots and British during the American Revolution!

**Three Strikes!:** We went to the McDonald center for our 3rd marking peirod incentive trip. Kids had a blast iceskating and playing on the turf.

**ELA PBL:** Students began brainstorming ideas for their genre book fair that they will be hosting for the 6th graders in the spring.

#### PBIS Raffle winners:



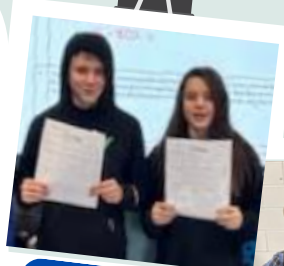
#### PBIS in 7th Grade

January: Just keep your hands to yourself January!

Februrary: Be Kind raffles

March: Stay out of the owed work room!

We love Math!



FFA spirit week



Math review!



### State Tests

will be starting the week after spring break!



### Enterprise America

We will be going to Enterprise America in the end of May. Stay tuned for more details and a request for parent volunteers! 7th graders will run their own community!

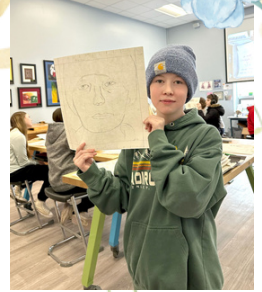
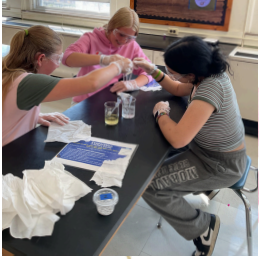


Building Catapults



# 8th Grade News

SPRING EDITION



## Ask your student...

- What will you wear for the Spanish Fashion Show?
- How many degrees do the three angles in a triangle make?
- Where does photosynthesis occur in the cell?
- Which independent reading book is your favorite?
- Who is your favorite character in *The Outsiders*? Why?



## Upcoming Events:

- 3/6 - District Choral Concert
- 3/11 - District Instrumental Concert
- 3/13 - 3 strike activity afternoon
- 3/13 - 8th grade parent night
- 3/14 - Staff Development Day
- 3/21 - HS Musical; Footloose @ 7 pm
- 3/22 - HS Musical; Footloose @ 7 pm
- 3/23 - HS Musical; Footloose @ 2 pm
- 3/24 - Circus
- 4/14 - 4/18 - NO SCHOOL; Spring Recess
- 4/23 & 4/24 - 3-8 ELA State Tests
- 4/25 - Echoes Performance
- 4/30 & 5/1 - 3-8 Math State Tests

## Academic CHECK-IN

Filled out on Tuesdays!  
Due signed on Fridays!  
Counts towards earning 3-strike incentive

Academic Check-in		
Student:		School Year:
Date:		Teacher:
End of the Marking Period:		
Class	Grade	Owed Work
ELA		
Math		
Science		
Social Studies		
Spanish		
Art		
FACS		
Music		
PE		

\* Are you a student athlete? yes..... no..... Are you currently eligible? NA..... yes..... no.....  
 \* I have been in the Owed Work Room ..... times. This counts as ..... strikes.  
 \* I am missing ..... academic check in papers. This counts as ..... strikes.  
 House Leader Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Academic Check ins due on Friday!

## Contact Information

You can reach teachers via Parent Square or email us!

**Mrs. Birmingham** -  
sbirmingham@moraviaschool.org

**Mr. Reynolds** -  
creynolds@moraviaschool.org

**Ms. Wright** -  
gwright@moraviaschool.org

**Mrs. Cary** -  
mcary@moraviaschool.org

**Ms. Stoyell** -  
tstoyell@moraviaschool.org

# STATE TEST INFO

Q: What are the New York State (NYS) tests for grades 3-8?

A: The NYS tests are annual assessments that measure student learning in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics for grades 3-8. Additionally, students in grades 5 and 8 take a Science assessment to evaluate their understanding of key scientific concepts and skills.

Q: Why are these tests important?

A: The tests provide valuable data on student learning and progress. They help educators refine curriculum, adjust instruction, and provide targeted support where needed. The results also help identify student strengths and areas that may need improvement.

Q: Are teachers evaluated based on student test scores?

A: No, teachers are not evaluated based on student performance on state tests. These assessments are used to improve teaching and learning by helping schools understand student needs and adjust instruction accordingly.

Q: How can parents help their child prepare for these tests?

A: Parents can support their child by encouraging good study habits, fostering a positive attitude toward learning, and ensuring they get enough rest and a nutritious breakfast on test days. Engaging in regular reading, practicing problem-solving skills, and maintaining open communication with teachers can also reinforce classroom learning.

Q: Should students feel stressed about these tests?

A: No. While students should do their best, these tests are just one measure of progress. Parents and educators should remind students that their effort is what matters most and help them approach the tests with confidence rather than anxiety.

Q: How do schools use the test results?

A: Schools use test results to identify trends in student learning, refine curriculum, and implement strategies to support students.

## STATE TEST DATES FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL

Grades 6 – 8

ELA: April 23 & 24

Math: April 30 & May 1

Grade 8 Only

Science: May 7

Whenever possible, we encourage students to be present on test days to avoid the need for make-ups. Of course, we understand that illnesses and emergencies happen, and student well-being comes first. Thank you for your support!

# COUNSELING OFFICE

## A NOTE FROM MRS. AUSTIN

Middle School Counselor

Spring is just around the corner, bringing with it a wave of energy and renewal. As the days grow longer and the weather warms up, it's the ideal time to focus on your health and well being. Embrace the season and start fresh!

This spring, we will be administering the New York State Assessments to students in grades 6-8. The test administration dates are scheduled as follows:

ELA Test: April 23 & 24, 2025

Math Test: April 30 & May 1, 2025

Written Science Test: One day only, and only for 8th graders: May 7, 2025.

Any questions? [taustin@moraviaschool.org](mailto:taustin@moraviaschool.org) or (315) 497-2670, ext. 2040



## TIPS

## TECHNOLOGY

### SOCIAL MEDIA



Read this amazing article and have a great discussion with your student about social media.

<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/articles/what-are-some-basic-social-media-rules-for-middle-schoolers>

### KIDS & TECH

## Parent Tips for Student Privacy

Read this great article on 5 tips to support your student's privacy.

<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/kids-action/articles/five-privacy-tips-you-shouldnt-ignore>



# MIDDLE SCHOOL PBIS

## PBIS NEWS:

Our PBIS initiatives are keeping school fun and engaging! Teachers have been organizing monthly challenges focused on positive habits like being prepared for class, arriving on time, and showing kindness. Before each break, we've enjoyed exciting staff vs. student games like volleyball and basketball, bringing everyone together for some friendly competition. Plus, we celebrate each marking period with incentive trips or in-house activity days to reward students for their hard work. Keep up the great effort, and let's finish the year strong!



## 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.

# MORAVIA ATHLETICS

## START HEALTHY HABITS NOW

With winter winding down and the snow melting, it's a great time for middle schoolers to build healthy habits! Get outside for fresh air and exercise—walk, jog, or try a new sport. Stay hydrated, fuel up with nutritious foods, and aim for enough sleep to keep energy levels up. Set small goals, like stretching daily or limiting screen time before bed. Healthy choices now lead to strong bodies and minds for the seasons ahead!

## READY TO SIGN UP?

Mark your calendars! Registration for modified spring sports opens on Monday, March 31st. The modified sports to be offered are: Baseball, Softball, and Track & Field

Students can register for a sport by going to our athletic webpage and signing up through Final Forms.

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



# REMINDER: CODE OF CONDUCT INFO

*Except for lunchtime, Middle School students leave their phones in their lockers. This change has had a significant impact 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 must be stored in student lockers during the instructional day
- Students will be permitted to use their personal electronic devices in the cafeteria 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

## Smartwatches

- Smartwatches may be worn but must have notifications and alerts silenced during instructional time.
- The use of smartwatches for communication (calls, texts, emails) during instructional time is prohibited unless approved by the teacher for educational purposes

# 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 \$15.50 per hour.
- Once a person is trained, and obtains the proper license, the rate will go to \$19.00 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 - \$110/day  
Teacher Aide - \$15.50/hour  
RN - \$135/day; LPN/\$120  
Clerical - \$16.80/hr.  
Cafeteria - \$15.50/hr.  
Cleaner - \$16.05/hr.  
Bus Attendant - \$15.50/hr.  
Bus Driver - \$19.00/hr.

We are  
**HIRING**

# #MAKELEARNINGIRRESISTIBLE

