



NEW WINDSOR MIDDLE SCHOOL

April 2014

Mr. Erin M. Brillhart, Principal

Mrs. Janel L. Fosnot, Assistant Principal

Principal's Message

1000 Green Valley Road
New Windsor, MD 21776
Phone: 410-751-3355
Fax: 410-751-3358

Contents

Dates To Remember

School Counselors

Curricular Areas

Grade 6

Grade 7

Grade 8

Related Arts

Media Center

Health Room

PTO News

School Information

Home Access Center Directions

Dear Parents;

April is here, and we would like to believe Spring is finally here as well. To the effect of snow, the State of Maryland has accepted CCPS' waiver request for snow days, and the last day for students is Friday June 13, 2014. This will be a full day of school.

As we gear up for the fourth quarter and end of the year, there are a number of important dates to be reviewed on the second page of this newsletter. Please take note that the Honor Reception has been scheduled during school hours, not in the evening as originally planned.

Our staff and students have been working all year to make New Windsor Middle School a "STEM-centric" school. STEM is an acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. STEM is a national focus to infuse the concepts within these areas of study to help students understand process-driven thinking that utilizes prior knowledge, brainstorming, cause-effect, collaboration, household items, manufacturing and many other aspects of everyday life. The goal is to turn our students into global thinkers and problem solvers. To this end, many of our teachers have involved students in STEM-based projects during the course of the year and our staff has participated in Professional Development committed to STEM. On April 25, our students will participate in 'STEM Day', a day devoted to STEM initiatives, like roller coasters, zip-lines, wind tunnels, etc. We will need a handful of parents volunteers on this day, request forms will be sent at a later date.

April is Autism Awareness Month. New Windsor Middle School is the proud host of the Regional Autism Program for middle school students. In an effort to show our unified support, staff will be wearing blue shirts throughout the month with a special focus on Tuesday's. For more information on Autism Awareness Month, please visit www.autism speaks.org or www.autism-society.org.

With Regards,

Erin Brillhart
Principal

Janel Fosnot
Assistant Principal

The Board of Education of Carroll County does not discriminate on the basis of disability in employment or provision of services, programs or activities. Information concerning the Americans with Disabilities Act is available from the Director of Facilities, 410-751-3177. Persons needing auxiliary aids and services for communication should contact the Office of Community and Media Relations at 410-751-3020 or , or write to Carroll County Public Schools, 125 North Court Street, Westminster, Maryland 21157. Persons who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, use Relay or 7-1-1. Please contact the school system at least one (1) week in advance of the date the special accommodation is needed.

DATES TO REMEMBER

APRIL

- 1-3 Parcc Testing
- 3 Spring Pictures
- 4 BATTLE OF THE BOOKS at FSK, 6pm
- 7-8 MSA Science testing – Grade 8
- 9 Report Cards Distributed
- 10 MSA Science testing – Grade 8 Make up day
- 10 Panoramic Picture – Grade 8
- 14-21 Schools Closed – Spring Break
- 23 Nada Brahma assembly – Grade 6
- 24 Honor Roll Assembly
 - Grade 6 – 8:45AM
 - Grade 7 – 9:30AM
 - Grade 8 – 10:30AM
- 24 Author Visit – Grade 6
- 25 STEM Day, Volunteers are needed!

MAY

- 2 Spaghetti Dinner & Silent Auction– 6:00pm
 - Variety/Talent Show – 7:00pm
- 7 Interims Distributed
- 16 Yearbook Dance – 3:05pm-7:00pm
- 26 Schools Closed – Memorial Day
- 30 8th Grade Dance – 7pm-9pm

GUIDANCE OFFICE

Take a look at what Mrs. Hiner & Mrs. Whitfield will be up to in April:

April's Character Education Focus: Self-Confidence

Feel free to access the following articles for tips to support your middle school student:

"Ways to Build Your Teenager's Self-Esteem" - HealthyChildren.Org

<http://www.healthychildren.org/English/ages-stages/teen/pages/Ways-To-Build-Your-Teenagers-Self-Esteem.aspx>

"Confidence -- Helping Your Child Through Early Adolescence" – ED.Gov

<http://www2.ed.gov/parents/academic/help/adolescence/part8.html>

"Adolescence and Self-Confidence: Teaching adolescents how to manage self-confidence is important to do" - PsychologyToday

<http://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/surviving-your-childs-adolescence/201306/adolescence-and-self-confidence>

Upcoming Assessments

On the mornings of April 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, several of our 6th grade classes will be field testing the first part of the PARCC Assessment. They will be completing the End of Year PARCC field testing at the end of May.

Our 8th grade students will be taking the Science MSAs on April 8th and 9th. Testing will take place in both the morning and afternoon for separate groups of students.

As we requested during March's Reading and Math MSA days, please refrain from scheduling appointments for your children on days they will be testing. Please help your children get a good night's sleep prior to testing days and a healthy breakfast each morning of testing. Doing so will help your child arrive at school alert and able to focus on the day.

Transition Activities

5th to 6th Grade

5th grade students will be visiting NWMS this spring to help them feel more comfortable transitioning to middle school next year! Students from Winfield Elementary will tour our building on May 29th and students from Elmer Wolfe will visit on June 6th.

Parents of 5th grade students are invited to a Parent Orientation Evening on May 14th beginning at 6:00pm. There will be a presentation from 6-6:30, and then parents are welcome to stay for Q&A or take tours of the building between 6:30-7. Our NWMS PTO will be meeting at 7 and 5th grade parents are welcome to attend.

8th to 9th Grade

8th Grade students will be visiting their local high schools, FSK and SCHS, on the mornings of Monday, June 9th. More information will be shared in May with parents and students.

Service Learning

Students must earn a minimum of 75 hours of service-learning prior to graduation from high school. If you have any questions about what counts toward service learning, where your child may earn hours, or how to document those hours correctly, please contact our Service Learning Coordinator, Mrs. Whitfield. Service Learning forms can be picked up and turned into the School Counseling Office.

Tiger Time with the School Counselors

Counselors have been able to use the daily Tiger Time block to reach students with a variety of needs and interests. Individual and group organizational skill support has been possible. Counselors also plan to use this time for groups such as Changing Families, which is helpful for students faced with transitions/adjustments: separation or divorce, a new sibling or new step-parent, etc...

Community Opportunities

The school counselors also have information about community food resources as well as the Human Services Program's **Neighbors In Need**. Families who want to help year round can contact the counselors for more information, or access the HSP information at: <http://www.hspinc.org/neighborsinneed.php>.

School Supplies

If your student has gone through his or her supplies that were purchased at the start of the school year and needs replacements before the year is up, feel free to contact Mrs. Hiner or Mrs. Whitfield. We have spiral notebooks, loose-leaf paper, backpacks, pens and pencils, etc... to share with those in need.

MEDIA

The 3rd *Annual Battle of the Books* this Friday, April 4th! Our students have spent countless hours over the last several months reading and preparing to compete against teams from Northwest Middle School. They are ready to battle! Please come out to **Francis Scott Key High School this Friday, April 4th from 6-8 p.m.** All are welcome!

Current New Windsor Middle School students who come to the *Battle* to cheer on their classmates are eligible to enter our raffle prize drawings, and we have nearly 100 prizes to give away! Not only will you see our hard work pay off in the trivia competition, our students at New Windsor entered book trailer and poster contest submissions too! Prizes will be awarded at the *Battle* for those contests that evening as well!

Snacks will be provided for our student participants, and snacks will be on sale for spectators during halftime. Hope to see many of you at the *Battle of the Books*!

GRADE 6

GRADE 7

ELA classes will be very busy in April, as we will finish our analysis of Irene Hunt's novel *Across Five Aprils*. In Social Studies, as we continue with our Middle East & Africa unit, we have begun to examine the rich culture of the Muslim Empire, and its effect on the surrounding civilizations. Soon, we will be looking into the "silent" trade that controlled Africa's economy, and the unique oral tradition of its peoples. In science, students are studying the history of life on Earth using scale models. In math, students will continue to learn how to solve equations and inequalities. The honors math class will continue their work with equations in 2 variables. We are all looking forward to a great start of the forth marking period with no more snow!

Self-discipline and dependability

The teachers of the Seventh Grade Team have selected a student from each academic class to be our "Oh Our Stars" for the month of March. We chose students who consistently demonstrate self-confidence and dependability in their academic and extra-curricular pursuits. These students, through their words, choices, and actions, embody Aristotle's philosophy that "We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence then is not an act but a habit."

GRADE 8

Mrs. Buckingham's ELA

Mrs. Knauth – 8th grade ELA, period 5/6: We will be finishing up our first genre for independent reading , which was Science Fiction, during the week of 3/31. Reading logs are due Tuesday, 4/1 and the Classroom Critics summative assignment is due Friday, 4/4. We will begin our next genre (voted on by the class) on Friday, 4/4, so everyone should come prepared for a Media day on Friday (sticky notes, all Media books to return and renew, and a calculator for figure out daily required pages). We're also starting with The Diary of Anne Frank and will be reading several selections and completing activities to gain background knowledge on the Holocaust before starting to read the dramatic version presented in the textbook.

8th grade ELA, period 5/6 AND 7: We are start our grammar study, and will soon be focusing on identifying and correcting sentence fragments and run-on sentences.

Spanish

Social Studies

Math

In 8th Grade Math students will complete their study of one variable equations and then study two variable equations. In Algebra students will complete their study of polynomial operations and factoring. We will also study radicals and begin quadratic equations.

Science**INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC**

All students are busy preparing for all of our year end performances. Band students in grades 7 and 8 as well as orchestra students in grades 6, 7, and 8 are preparing for our band and orchestra assessment on May 1. This is held during the school day at Century High School. Students will be judged on tone, intonation, technique, balance, interpretation and musical effect. Our Spring Program is Tuesday May 13th at New Windsor Middle. All students will participate in the spring program. Finally, our band students will be participating in the New Windsor Carnival Parade on Wednesday June 4th

GENERAL MUSIC**HEALTH ROOM**

**To Parents/Guardians of all upcoming 7th grade students
school year 2014-2015**

**The regulations covering school immunizations have changed for the
school year 2014-2015**

In order to begin the school year 2014-2015 **all** incoming 7th grade students will be required to have:

1 dose Tdap vaccine

1 dose Meningococcal vaccine

If your child does not have proof of these vaccinations, they will be excluded from school. Please check with your physician to schedule these vaccinations prior to the end of the current school year. If you have any questions, you may contact your school nurse.

Please check with your physician to see if your child has had the Tdap and provide proof of this immunization to the school nurse.

Mrs. Melanie A. Imhoff RN

SCHOOL INFORMATION



ARRIVAL TIME:

The school day begins at 8:20 a.m. and ends at 3:05 p.m. **Students need to be in their homerooms by 8:20 a.m.** for morning announcements. Parents who transport students to and from school are asked to use the north side of the school (facing Union Bridge). Students are permitted to enter the building at 7:55 a.m. Students who arrive to homeroom after 8:20 a.m. are tardy to school.

ATTENDANCE:

Parents are reminded to call the school **by 9:00 a.m.** any day your child is absent. Before 7:30 a.m. call 410-751-3355 and leave a message. An AlertNow phone call will be made to parents who have not notified the school of an absence. State law requires documentation of a student's absence. You can send a note stating your child's full name, date(s) of absence and reason. A phone call or an email will also serve as documentation. If documentation is not received within 3 days of the absence, the absence will be coded as unexcused.

EARLY DISMISSAL:

Parents must send a written note requesting early dismissal. These notes must be brought to the main office **before 8:20 a.m.** **In case of an emergency,** parents may call the school to make an early dismissal request. Students will **NOT** be excused to leave the school with anyone except the parent/legal guardian. Students needing to leave school with anyone else **must have written permission from the parent/legal guardian.** For safety reasons, authorized person(s) will be required to show proper identification when picking up a student.

HOMEWORK REQUESTS:

Students are responsible for getting any missed assignments either from a classmate, or from their teachers upon return to school. If your child is absent from school for three or more days, you may make arrangements for homework by contacting the main office. **No homework requests will be accepted until a student is absent for 3 days.** Requests must be made before 9:00 a.m. and may be picked up between 3:00 – 3:30 p.m.

VACATIONS:

Requests for extended absences due to family vacations **must be made in writing to Mr. Brilhart two weeks in advance for approval.** Homework will be collected during the absence period and provided to the student upon return to school after the vacation. Students will receive one day for each day of absence to make-up and return his/her school work. Work will not be provided in advance.

ADDRESS & PHONE NUMBER CHANGES:

Please keep the school informed in writing any time there is a change in a home, cell, work phone number, or email address. This up-to-date information is critical in case of an emergency. If you move during the school year, please notify the school in writing and provide proof of residence. The school counselor's office can assist you with the required documentation.

LEGAL CUSTODY OF CHILDREN:

It is extremely important to keep the school informed of any custody agreements concerning your child. An official court order or court document is required to establish guidelines for custody and/or restrictions. Please contact Mr. Brilhart immediately if there is a change in the custody situation of your child.

ALERTNOW

The Carroll County Public School System is using the AlertNow Rapid Communication Service to provide parents with information from their child's school and the school system. You do not have to sign up for the new system. All information is taken from emergency procedure cards.

USE OF STUDENT WORK ON WEBSITES OR IN PUBLICATIONS

There may be times throughout the year when the Carroll County Public School System wishes to display student work on school websites or in publications. If you do not wish to have your child's art, poetry, writing, etc. appear on school websites or in publications, please notify the school principal in writing. It is assumed that parents and guardians consent to their child's work being displayed on school websites or in publications unless such notification is received.

STUDENT HANDBOOKS

All students will receive a Carroll County Public Schools Student Handbook. All county policies are covered in this handbook. Please take time to review this information with your child. Students are expected to follow all Carroll County Public School policies and procedures.

STUDENT AGENDA BOOKS

Students will be provided a New Windsor Middle Student Agenda. The agenda book is used for recording daily homework assignments.

PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Students are no longer permitted to bring and use personal portable electronic devices during lunch time. This includes, but is not limited to cell phones, iPods, MP3's, DS's, Kindles, etc. Electronic books checked out from the school's media center are permitted.

LUNCH INFORMATION

Parents are welcome to periodically visit with their own student at the designated lunch time. Parents must sign-in in the main office and get a visitors pass. Parents must also meet with an administrator prior to visiting in the cafeteria. Parents may only bring lunch for their own child. We recommend bringing a home-made lunch or purchasing a school lunch as many "fast-food" restaurants use peanut products in the preparation of food items.



A variety of lunch options are available each day for students. The regular lunch is offered for \$2.50. Students may also choose from daily alternatives, sold at the full lunch cost of \$2.50. Milk, juice, snacks and ice cream are also sold on a daily basis. Parents are encouraged to pre-pay the cost of student lunches. Checks should be made payable to New Windsor Middle School. Carroll County Public Schools also offers two different meal plans, an Annual Payment Meal Plan and an Installment Payment Plan. Forms for these two plans can be picked up in the main office.

LUNCH CHARGES

At times, middle school students forget to bring their lunch or lunch money. When this happens, students are encouraged to borrow from the cafeteria. Students who need to charge may not buy additional menu items.

The \$2.50 charge must be re-paid the following school day, so that funds are available for other students.

FREE AND REDUCED MEAL PROGRAM

Applications for free and reduced meals are accepted at any time throughout the year.

Directions For Home Access Center:

1. Go to the Carroll County Public Schools website at www.carrollk12.org
2. Click on the 'Home Access Center' link.
3. A new page will open; click the 'Request Password' link.
4. Enter the email address you provided on your student's emergency card (it will be the email account where you received this AlertNow message). You will receive an email to that account with a link to a web page. If the email message does not appear within several minutes, check your junk mail folder and make sure it wasn't delivered there. It will come from donotreply@carrollk12.org.
5. Click the link from the email message and follow the instructions on-screen. You will be prompted to answer 3 questions about one of your students. Once you have answered the questions correctly, your password will appear on-screen. Click the link on that page to be taken to the Home Access Center login screen.
6. Login using your email address and the password that was displayed on-screen. After logging in, be sure to click 'Profile' in the top right-hand corner and identify a new password for your account.

Please make sure you review the User Manual located here:

<https://mystudent.carrollk12.org/HomeAccess/HomeAccessFAQs.pdf>. It contains important information and FAQs regarding getting connected and navigating Home Access Center.

VISITORS & VOLUNTEERS

VISITORS/VOLUNTEERS:

We welcome visitors to our school. Please remember that all visitors/volunteers are required to show photo ID before entering the building. **Visitors/volunteers must provide the reason for visiting and upon approval sign in at the Main Office and wear a visitor badge at all times.** Visitors/volunteers must sign out in the office before leaving.

Volunteering is an excellent way for parents and family, community members, and business partners to build and strengthen ties with the Carroll County Public School System. Volunteers offer their time, effort, and/or talents to benefit all students in the school system.

CCPS Volunteer Program Guidelines outline consistent standards for volunteers. **Level I Volunteers** (guest readers, concession stand operators, business representatives, event ticket collectors, guest speakers, etc.) **must annually register at a school site before volunteering.** **Level II Volunteers** (classroom helpers, tutors, chaperones, mentors, etc.) **are required to attend an annual training session at least seven (7) school days prior to volunteering.**

Volunteer training sessions are held at schools and regional locations throughout the school year. A comprehensive list of volunteer training sessions is available by accessing the CCPS website (<http://www.carrollk12.org>), Channel 21, and local newspapers. Additional information may also be obtained by contacting Jane Farver, CCPS Volunteer Program Coordinator, at 410-386-1536 or ejfarve@k12.carr.org.